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the best,
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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



Their dancing a
definition of love

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Glimpse next fall's
hottest fashions

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G20 heads meet in gallery



Chinese artist Cheng Song painted portraits of world leaders attending the G20 summit in London for an exhibit at the Beijing Bridge Art Center. Duplicates will be shown at the UK Parliament throughout the month.

President Hu Jintao and US President Barack Obama reaffirmed their commitment to a global trade solution that will benefit China, the US and the world during a meeting ahead of the summit. (See Page 5 for more on G20)

CFP Photo

Desperate
grads go to
extremes

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Artist breaks
out banjo for
quake kids

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Former English
teacher takes
boss to court

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Tooth-colored
crowns
not a killer

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New law forces foreign banks to retain investments

Bank regulators will require foreign banks taking stakes in domestic commercial banks to hold those stakes for at least five years, rather than three as at present, to reduce risks for the local banks.

Yi Xianrong, a finance researcher from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), a government think tank, told Xinhua on Wednesday that

such rules allowed China to manage cross-border investment and capital flow.

The change was announced Tuesday by Banking Regulatory Commission chairman Liu Mingkang at a CASS seminar. Liu said the longer lockup was meant to ensure the safety of the country's banking system.

He said prudent cross-border financial supervision was

one reason China's banking system fared better amid the global financial crisis, and it was also critical for a healthy development of the banking system.

During the past three months, some major foreign shareholders in local banks sold their stakes to raise cash. The institutions involved included the Bank of China (BOC) and the China Construction Bank (CCB).

On December 31, the Union Bank of Switzerland sold its entire 3.4-billion H-share stake in BOC; on January 8, Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing sold 2 billion of his 5 billion shares in BOC; and the Bank of America, the second-largest shareholder in CCB, cut its 19.1 percent stake to about 16.7 percent by selling 5.6 billion CCB shares.

(Xinhua)

Cemetery serves the poor



By Jin Zhu

Changqingyuan, Beijing's first welfare cemetery for cremated remains, opened yesterday. Columbarium slots are open to Beijingers whose family members died since the start of

this year.

The price of a slot for storing an urn is 3,000 yuan. Some groups, including the families of disabled military personnel and revolutionary martyrs, can get a special

discount. Common residents receive a subsidy of 1,000 yuan from the municipal government for each site, according to an announcement from the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Civil Affairs.

Each columbarium slot is guaranteed for a 20-year service period.

Organized trips to scatter ashes are available free of charge for up to two family members.

Photo by Tom Wang

While world is in crisis, millionaires merge

By Wang Yu

The financial crisis may be crushing many enterprises and their owners, but in China that is not always the case.

Data from a report on private fortunes released by China Merchant Bank and Bain & Company, a global business consulting firm, showed there are more than 300,000 people whose private assets exceed 10 million yuan – mostly residents in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

Each of these cities has 20,000 or more individuals with a high net worth, and Guangdong leads the rankings with 15 percent of these top rich. In 2008, the millionaires listed in the report held 8.8 trillion yuan of investment assets, or 29 percent of the GDP in 2008. Researchers at China Merchant Bank said the number of multimillionaires will grow to 320,000 by the end of the year, and their total assets will exceed 9 trillion yuan.

The financial crisis did little to slow the rise of the rich, though it did put a dent in their investment methods. Over 45 percent of investors admitted they are now inclined to choose safer stocks, real property and cash reserves as their preferred investments.

The report was made to promote the private bank services of China Merchant Bank, but its contents may show who is making out in the crisis.

Some people found problems in the report.

Feng Haining, a finance critic and economist, said the sudden appearance of new millionaires brings to the table an old question: How does the government ensure even growth that is in the interests of the people? "Over 29 percent of the GDP is held by these people, so what about the common man?" Feng said.

He also pointed out that the conservative investments of these new elite show the government's programs to stimulate spending fall on deaf ears with the rich.

New law clamps down on unregistered adoptions

By Jin Zhu

As of Wednesday, residents who pick up abandoned babies or children are required to report the finds to local police. They cannot adopt the children or deliver them to others without permission.

Abandoned children whose parents or guardians cannot be identified or found will be sent to a local orphanage, according to an announcement Tuesday

from China's Ministry of Civil Affairs.

For families who filed adoption papers through March, the ministry is handling the registrations the same as it did last September: after providing adoption certificates, Registration Cards for Residence and Identity Cards, people can register their adopted child with the police.

The current laws on adop-

tion took effect April 1, 1999. According to ministry statistics, the number of registered adoptions increases every year.

"The number of families with adopted children has risen greatly since 2003, especially in cities and provinces with good economic conditions like Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou," said Ji Gang, director of the Domestic Adoption Depart-

ment at the China Center Adoption Affairs.

However, legal adoption remains a new and sensitive issue, and unregistered adoption continues to be widely practiced by many families.

"Some foster parents keep their adoptions a secret for many reasons, such as worrying about the discrimination their children may face or the risk of future troubles," Ji said.

"Since a legal relationship cannot be established without registration, adopted children have no legal right to housing, education and inheritance," he said.

Adoptions seem closely tied to economic boom and social responsibility. The demand is expected to continue to rise in major cities. Clearer, standard process for registering adopted children will be necessary, Ji said.

City's closure of private dialysis clinic leaves patients in limbo

By Han Manman

Although the municipal government ordered a halt to a clinic offering kidney dialysis to patients with renal failure in suburban Beijing, it is still offering the service pending government action.

The home dialysis clinic operated for five years in Tongzhou District, but it only came under the public spotlight this week.

Ten of its patients from different provinces have uremia, a disease associated with kidney failure, in which waste that normally exits with the urine is retained in the blood.

These patients require regular blood purification through dialysis to survive, or need a kidney transplant, which is costly and depends on the availability of organs. The patients have no money to pay for dialysis at a hospital, so they rely on the illegal clinic to survive.

Wang Xinyang pooled money to buy the dialysis machine, which he used on himself. Later on, he began to offer very low-cost dialysis to people in need.

After media reports came out about the clinic, Beijing health authorities ordered the patients to shut down dialysis operations earlier this week, and the patients have been ordered to return home.

However, because all the patients would die without the low-cost service, law enforcers have not acted on the government's orders and are waiting for the government to offer a solution to the clinic's patients. The clinic, however, has been barred from accepting new patients.

"Since a direct ban could threaten their lives, how to enforce the government's decision is a delicate matter. But it will be forced to shut down within a few days," Yu Luming, deputy head of the Beijing Health Bureau, said Wednesday.

"Home dialysis is very dangerous. Our investigation found the clinic lacks professional-grade sterilization and resuscitation equipment, and also has no nurses," Yu said.

The 10 patients were told to contact their



Many families are out of options.

CFP Photo



Patients depended on the clinic for lifesaving treatment unaffordable elsewhere.

Photo by Cui Jingsi

own local governments for help and return home to find a solution to their problems, Yu said.

"Uremia is a special disease. Beijing covers it in its general health care program for major diseases," Yu said, though he admitted this was not the case in all provinces.

"Beijing could help patients from other provinces in a critical situation, but we cannot provide them with long-term free treatment," he said.

Yu said the patients need to seek help from their local civil administration to bring about changes in their health care systems.

"We just refused a new patient from Chaoyang district yesterday who wanted to join our group. Our problem is not solved, and we cannot accept new members," Wang said. "We just want affordable dialysis for patients like us. What we want is to survive."

Wang said the maximum lifespan of a uremia patient without dialysis was two weeks. He was diagnosed with uremia in 2002 and opened the clinic in 2004. He has relied on self-treatment since then.

Spring comes to all but 798

By Venus Lee

The weather may be warming up, but the atmosphere at 798 Art Zone is colder than ever.

Many galleries folded during the last six months, and notices of lease and transfer hang in almost all yards.

Some 60 galleries, including Galleria Continua from Italy, Alexander Ochs Gallery from Germany, Red Gate Gallery from Australia and Chen Linghui Contemporary Space from Taiwan, closed or moved somewhere less expensive than 798.

"The galleries in the art zone will probably enter hibernation the next two years," said Hao Guang, a professional painter whose studio is in the zone. Artists in 798 are draining away, and many galleries have posted no sales since October. "The possibility of survival is not positive; any piece priced more than 100,000 yuan has little hope of selling," he said.

Although visitors to 798 Art Zone have remained constant, actual purchases have tumbled. "The main purpose of an exhibition is to attract collectors to buy art. However, their purchasing power is very limited now. More than 80 percent of the current visitors are just window shopping," Zhang Jun, a worker in Shengzhi Space, said.

It is common for struggling galleries to reduce exhibition costs, postpone exhibitions, move to a lower-priced studio, cut staff or pay and reduce advertising, Gu Zhiping,



The crowds still come, but 798 art is not selling.

CFP Photo

the director of Chinese Contemporary Gallery, said.

However, rent in 798 has not kept pace with the economy. "The rent essentially doubled, and we felt this was not sustainable given the market conditions. This is part of the reason many galleries left," said Brian Wallace, director of the Red Gate Gallery which left 798 in January.

Rent in 798 Art Zone rose 0.8 yuan per square meter per day in 2003 to 4 yuan per square meter. Tenants who entered after 2008 pay 6 yuan per square meter every day. "Not counting exhibition fees, a 100-square-meter gallery costs 1 million yuan to rent, maintain and operate," Gu said.

Yao Ana, a senior art editor at Century

Online China Art Networks, said both galleries and collectors are in trouble. Collectors have lost their spare money that allowed for speculation on contemporary art, which has shrunk the market price 60 to 70 percent; but without new investment to drive the price back up, their existing pieces are rapidly devaluing.

Although no one knows when the economic crisis will stop hitting contemporary art, some critics are looking at it as a chance to shake up the market. "The crisis is a double-edged sword. It can drive artists to settle down to create art for art's sake. People who love art will stick it out, while those in it for the money will be swept away," Jia Fangzhou, an art critic, said.

Phoenix names new 12 top Chinese

By Huang Daoheng

Phoenix Satellite TV named 12 Chinese elites from around the world as "most influential" at its annual gala at Peking University last weekend.

The Chinese of World Influence award is an annual event to honor Chinese people who have made outstanding achievements during the past year.

The 12 winners in five categories were chosen by media veterans. Awards in art and culture went to filmmakers Zhang Yimou and Feng Xiaogang, actress Michelle Yeoh and fashion designer Vivienne Tam.

Kungfu star Jet Li won the top award for public welfare. Li is the founder of One Foundation, which encourages people to donate one yuan per month to help the needy.

Two lifetime achievement awards were bestowed at the ceremony, one to 85-year-old martial arts novelist Jin Yong and the other to Qian Xuesen, the father of the space program.

The awards, given annually since 2006, are sponsored by 12 main media groups including Phoenix TV, the *Beijing Youth Daily* and China News Service. Previous winners included the 110-meter hurdler Liu Xiang, NBA player Yao Ming and Oscar-winning director Ang Lee.

New grads turn to auctions, cosmetic surgery for jobs

By Huang Daohen

Tough times inspire creative – sometimes desperate – measures.

This year, 6 million new graduates will start their job hunt. They enter a pool of 2 million graduates who never found work last year. The competitive spirit is palpable.

Whether through creative ideas or extreme actions, every student is desperate to stand out.

Humans for auction

Any advantage helps – especially in a mangled economy.

Wang Danke, the class monitor of Math 0501 at North China University of Technology, set up an online shop to sell himself and his classmates.

Like millions of graduates, Wang and his classmates – all in their early 20s – found their hopes dashed at job fairs. “We started to hunt for work at the end of last year, but the road has been thorny,” Wang said. Any position that would pay well or offer residence in Beijing was flooded with applicants.

Seven of his classmates are going on to graduate school, two have job offers and the other 24 are still hunting.

Wang sent his resume to employers every day but never landed an interview. “We thought it over and decided to try something new instead of just waiting for leads,” Wang said. He and 15 classmates opened a shop on March 10 on Taobao.com, the country’s top auction site, to sell their skills.

“We want to sell ourselves using our wit,” he said. “My class has the school’s top students: the captain of the basketball team, Olympic volunteers, skilled painters and the backbone of our student union,” Wang wrote on the Web site, “All we need is a chance.”

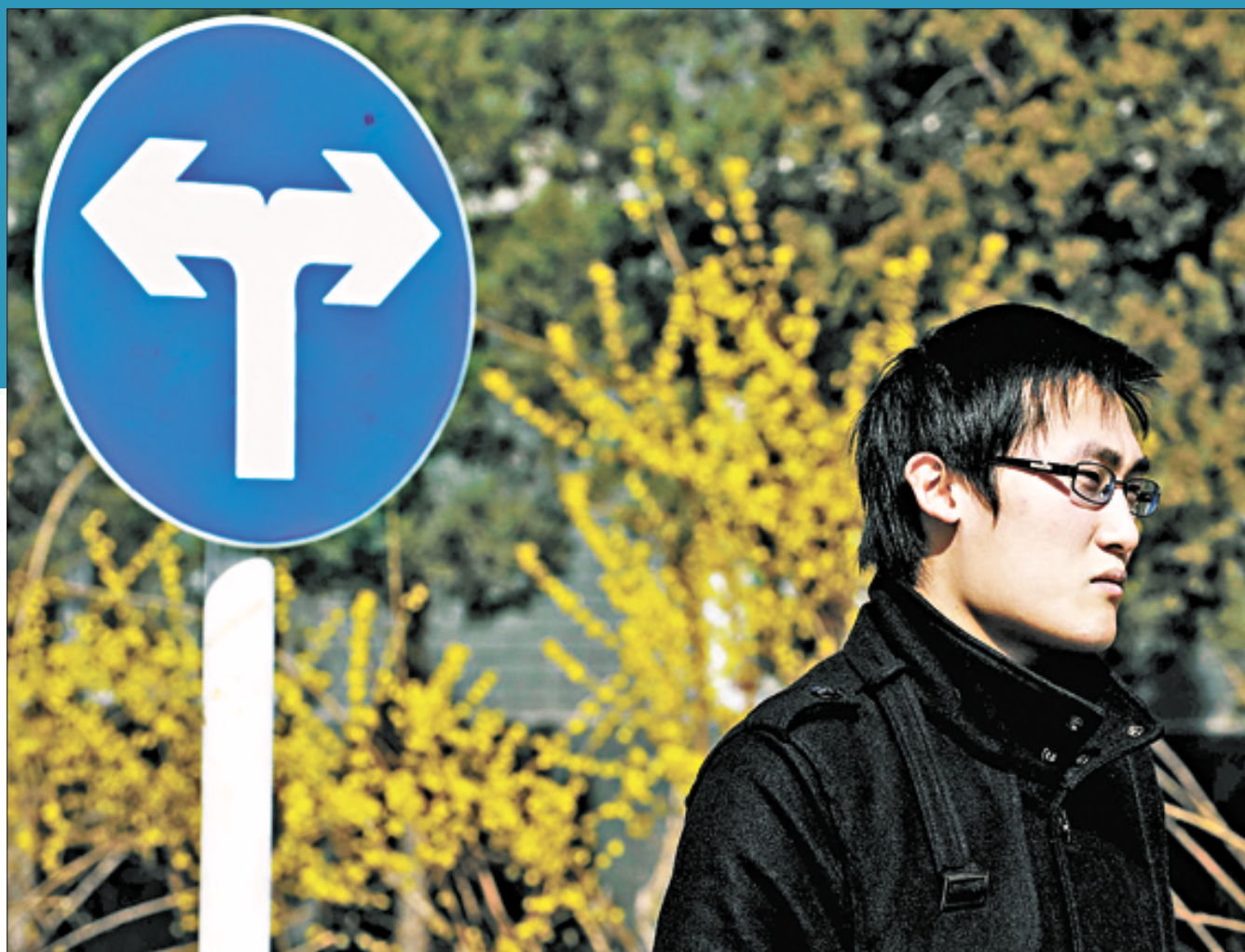
In the shop, named My Monitor, My Class – a name inspired by the popular TV series *My Colonel, My Regiment* – are 16 “recommended items,” each complete with a photo, price and student’s resume. The opening bid is 2,000 yuan each – the expected monthly salary.

Wang said online auctions are a creative way to catch an employer’s eyes. “We wanted to find a unique way to get attention,” he said.

And attention they got.

Taobao closed the store on its third day of operations for violating the company’s policy to protect personal information. The online market required Wang to provide notarized papers for the listed items: his classmates.

“We had to make certain – it was a real job-hunt,” Zhao Jingpeng, from Taobao’s customer



Desperate students are turning to auctions to sell their employment.

Photo by James Hao



Wang and his “recommended items” Photo provided by Wang Danke

service department, said. “We decided to make an exception to our rules in light of the tough employment situation.”

Though no items on the shop have “sold” as of press time, the publicity stunt paid off. Wang said some of his classmates were interviewed by headhunters who can connect them with part-time positions and internships.

Going under the knife

While Wang and his classmates turned to the Internet, Fiona Chen, a 22-year-old college senior, turned to her plastic surgeon.

On a cold January morning, Chen, an administration major due to graduate this July, walked into a clinic. An hour later she walked out with two big bandages over her eyes.

The blepharoplasty surgery, more popularly known as “get-

ting a double eyelid,” cost her the 1,500 yuan she earned while interning at a technology company last semester.

Chen said she was scared by the swelling when she removed the bandages the next day. But the swelling went down to show a sharp crease across her upper lids, which she said gave her the confidence for her next interview.

Before the surgery Chen had four interviews, all of which were with men. “They may not say it openly, but during the process they pick the prettier candidate,” she said.

Chen said she was not counting on her new eyes to improve her fortune. “It was not the whole reason I did the surgery. Every woman wants to look more beautiful,” she said.

She was not the only graduate looking to surgery.

The cosmetic surgery business is booming as job seekers desperate for an edge grieve over the flaws in their appearance.

While the government does not keep official statistics on how many cosmetic surgery procedures are performed, Huang Feng, a doctor at the China-Japan Friendship Hospital, said business has boomed since November, when the financial crisis began to affect China.

According to the hospital’s patient survey, 50 percent of surgery patients cited job-related reasons as their motivation for surgery, and the majority of patients were women. Laid off office workers are also looking to surgery to aid them in the job search, Huang said.

Aside from double eyelids, many women also sought sharper noses and rounder cheekbones, Huang said.

Solution is goals, not gimmicks

Peng Yi, head of the College of Foreign Languages at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, lamented the measures students are taking to try and boost their competitiveness.

While Wang’s move may have won more coverage for the plight of this year’s grads, it was a one-time solution. “E-consumer Web sites such as Taobao.com, where people go to

shop, are hardly the right place to find a good job,” she said.

She said cosmetic surgery for job interviews “sounds absurd to someone my age.” Labor laws prohibit employers from hiring based on race, ethnicity, sex or religion, but no law stops discrimination based on appearance, she said.

“Somehow, it’s understandable if a few girls want to do it,” the 58-year-old teacher said.

With a new 6 million graduates entering the job market this year, and 2 million from last year’s crop still seeking work, employment is particularly tough. The government’s official estimate of the urban jobless rate is 4.2 percent, but the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences says real numbers may be double that.

Peng still clung to her view that new grads need specific career goals. “You can temporarily work as a nanny or rural worker, but you need a clear picture of what you want for your future,” she said.

Wang and his classmates are still running their online shop, and Chen is preparing for her next interview. None have been offered a contract.

But Wang and Chen said one thing with which Peng agreed: “You really don’t know what job you might take after graduation. Before you find one you’re devoted to, anything is worth a try.”

'Let's work together'



How to fix the global economy dominates the Group of 20 summit in London.

IC Photo

(AFP) – President Hu Jintao and US President Barack Obama on Wednesday agreed in talks in London to support global trade and investment flows and work to resist protectionism, the White House said.

“China and the United States agreed to work together to resolutely support global trade and investment flows that benefit all,” said a statement issued after Obama met Hu at the US ambassador’s residence in London,

where leaders of the G20 rich and emerging powers are gathered to tackle the global economic crisis.

“To that end, they are committed to resist protectionism and ensure sound and stable US-China trade relations.” China has previously singled out the US for criticism over protectionist measures.

The “Buy American” clause in the US \$787 billion (6 trillion yuan) stimulus package proved particularly controversial. It requires the use of US iron, steel and manufac-

tured goods in public works projects funded by the bill.

Despite that, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said he and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had agreed to “reject trade and investment protectionism” in February.

China also expressed concern over India imposing in January a six-month ban on Chinese-made toys, and threatened World Trade Organization (WTO) action over the issue.

Analysis

'G2' taking shape?

On Wednesday afternoon, Presidents Hu Jintao and Barack Obama, two leaders currently feeling the pressure to “save the world,” met for the first time. This was Hu’s third bilateral meeting during his visit to the UK, and the most important one among all the seven meetings planned. Hu, leading a delegation of over 100 members, including Vice Premier Wang Qishan in charge of the country’s financial affairs, flew into London Wednesday noon.

China’s new prominence at the G20 talks, sparked by a white paper issued last week by the head of the Chinese central bank calling for the establishment of a new international reserve currency, has all parties eager to learn what plans Hu will bring and what kind of speech he will make.

Leaders of many countries are hoping to get the chance to meet with him during the summit, according to a Chinese Embassy official, but time constraints mean he will mostly be limited to sit-downs with leaders of the UK, Russia and the US before the meeting, and Brazil, Japan, Australia and South Korea afterwards.

The meeting between the leader of the country with the world’s largest foreign exchange reserve and the country with the largest economy has the world’s economic and political wonks abuzz. Though there has been some earlier telephone communication between the two, Hu and Obama have never met face to face.

Fred Bergsten, director of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said in an article published in *Diplomacy* last July that the keys to future global economic problems are owned by China and the US. World Bank President Robert Zoellick and its Chief Economist Lin Yifu have added that

without a powerful “G2,” the G20 will be a disappointment.

Before the London summit, China’s strong statements on reform of the current international reserve system surprised other countries. Although the Obama Administration has dismissed talk of the US dollar losing its reserve currency dominance, it has said it is interested in reforming and strengthening the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The meeting between the two leaders is unlikely to yield any actual outcome, just as a three-and-a-half hour G20 summit is equally unlikely to settle the financial crisis troubling the world.

Chinese Embassy officials in London said they would not be surprised if Hu asked Obama about the security of the US national debt, as China, the biggest creditor of the US, is continuing to buy US Treasury bonds. China is very concerned over possible monetary problems sparked by US dollar depreciation and future inflation.

Another item on the agenda would have likely been the status, nuclear and otherwise, of North Korea, a situation in which they might find more to agree about at their first meeting.

A problem for China is that it is not in a place where it can realistically challenge the status of the US, in terms of either economic power or international influence. And, with all those US dollars tucked away in its foreign exchange reserves, it would be very reluctant to do anything to bring about dollar fluctuation.

So the major hope in the lead-up to the meeting was that the two enormously powerful leaders sit down and just have a nice chat. No great solutions, maybe, but no great new problems either.

(CSC and Agencies)

Sidelights

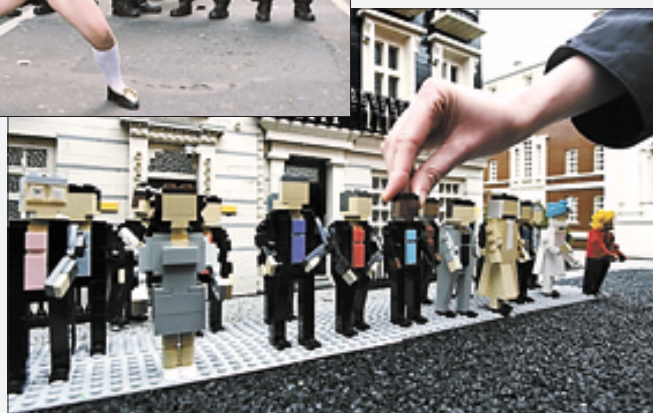
Protesters marched through London demanding action on poverty, climate change and jobs, as world leaders arrived in the British capital ahead of the G20 summit.

IC Photo



A protester stands in front of police close to the Bank of England, during Wednesday’s G20 demonstrations in central London.

CFP Photo



World leaders attending the G20 summit are depicted as Lego figures outside a Lego Downing Street at Legoland Windsor, UK.

CFP Photo

IPO rules unveiled for Nasdaq-style exchange

By Huang Daohen

The securities regulator announced Tuesday the listing rules for the long-expected Nasdaq-like secondary board to fund cash-hungry start-ups.

The rules for initial public offerings (IPO) in the Growth Enterprise Market (GEM) will take effect May 1, the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) said. But analysts said it could be launched as early as June.

"The launch of GEM will serve growing companies and will focus on extending support to firms capable of independent innovation," CSRC said in

a statement, adding it would accept IPO applications after releasing further rules and setting up a reviewing committee.

The securities regulator gave no further timeframe for the launch of the new market. But Wang Shouren, director general of Shenzhen Venture Capital Association, was quoted by Xinhua as saying that the regulators will need around two months to perfect the system.

Under the GEM rules released Tuesday, an applicant for second-board listing must have been profitable in the previous two years with net profits totaling no less than 10 million

yuan. By contrast, candidate companies for listing in the main boards in Shanghai and Shenzhen are required to post net profits of no less than 30 million yuan in the previous three years.

Despite the lowered threshold, authorities are expected to choose mature companies with sound fiscal conditions in the first batch, Wen Yijun, an analyst with Oriental Securities, said. "They want to ensure a successful start of the new market."

Wen, however, said it was premature to predict demand for the first batch of GEM-listed stocks

due to uncertainties over the global economy. The new market's performance might help the authorities decide whether or not to lift the main board IPO moratorium that has been in effect since last September.

The ongoing unofficial IPO moratorium has created a long queue of well-established firms waiting for listing approval.

Wen said that on the IPO waiting list are about 300 companies that will easily meet the GEM's requirements. If launched later this year, the GEM could initially accommodate around 50 to 60 companies, he said.

Expert view

This is the right time to deploy a Nasdaq-like growth board, which is designed as an avenue for fast-growing start-up companies to raise funds, Zhao Xiao, an economist at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, said.

The board will provide more access to the capital market for

innovative domestic start-ups, Zhao said, adding that small companies can hardly get a loan.

Zhao said big enterprises often get preferential treatment in capital disbursement, not just because they are financially stronger and have a better credit record, but also because they may have better connections to major banks.

Referring to worry that the launch of the second board will affect the main board by distracting capital, Zhao said the new board will only enhance the variety of choices for investors.

"China's stock market is not short of funds, but of good choices for investment," he said.

"Capital is not a major factor deterring development of our stock market. We lack good investment products."

"That the government is allowing IPOs in the relatively small GEM to go first shows it wants to avoid hurting the broader market and to maintain stability," Zhao said.

Nike closes last shoe factory in Taichang

By Zhao Hongyi

Nike has reportedly closed its last fully owned shoe factory in Taichang, Jiangsu Province this week. The reason, its spokesperson said, is because of increasing production costs.

The factory in Taichang was built by Nike (Suzhou) Sportswear, one of its mainland subsidiaries, in 1996 and was operated and managed by the Feng Tay Group from Taiwan. Orders have been moved to the group's factories in other Asian countries.

The closure was considered for nearly one year, Zhu Jinqian, a spokesperson of Nike China, told local media. As a result, Nike will transfer its air-insole production lines from Taichang to Feng Tay, and it will continue production there.

"This is part of a long-term consolidation of our supply chain that we began in mid-2007," Erin Dobson, the company's spokeswoman in Beaverton, Oregon, told AFP. Financial turmoil has forced Nike to accelerate the process.

Nike started shifting its outsourcing orders from China to South and Southeast Asian countries like Vietnam and Indonesia in 2005.

"The continuous rise of the yuan seems inevitable," Feng Tay said last month, which explains their reasoning. Feng Tay and Pou Chen Group, the largest OEM supplier of Nike, also from Taiwan, have increased its production investment in Vietnam and Indonesia.

"China is still the biggest supplier of footwear, clothes and Nike equipment," Zhu from Nike China said.

While Nike is slashing production orders on the mainland, it is still reaping the market.

The company said in its annual report, released March 18, it had a sales volume of US \$4.4 billion (30 billion yuan) worldwide in the third quarter of 2008, and the Asia-Pacific market grew 8 percent to 5.5 billion yuan.

China is the second largest market for Nike in Asia, Zhu said.

Nike will build a logistics center in the Taichang Economic Development Zone to oversee its production on the Chinese mainland and throughout Asia.

Local reports said workers laid off from Taichang had a compensatory dispute with the factory manager. Neither side would reveal the details. Zhu said they recommend workers find jobs in Feng Tay's factories in Fujian Province and will continue to cooperate with the local government to ensure preferential compensation.

Lotto enters China with new image

By Han Manman

Lotto Sport Italia, a leading Italian sportswear company, announced Monday they will enter China with a new image. The company plans to open 260 new shops in China this year.

The company is stepping back from its strong soccer line to introduce a series of fashionable and sexy products for younger shoppers, Lotto President Andrea Tomat said.

"China's sports fashion industry has grown rapidly. We believe our new strategy in China could win us a long term profit," Tomat said.

Google Pigeons fly for April Fools'

The Google April Fools' Day joke has become something of a tradition, even in China.

Last year, Google posted a mock recruitment ad for a Google "human flesh search engine." This year, the Internet giant announced the launch of a new service in China: the "Google Pigeon Bird's Eye View." Similar to Google Street View, Google says the new service will be used to improve the image resolution on Google Earth and Google Maps, while embracing the vibrant "shanzhai" – better known as pirate – culture.

The project's mission: to collect shanzhai information about shanzhai celebrities, shanzhai places to go on a date, shanzhai innovations and shanzhai terms.

Google says that the new service aims to help "everyone enjoys the benefit of shanzhai culture." An exact 31,415,926 pigeons have been trained as "Google pigeons," a pun on Google's similar sounding Chinese name, "guge."

The birds will be equipped with high-tech devices including a blue hat with GPS and head massaging capabilities and a Chinese-style



Google launched its free music download service in China before the April Fools' Day. Photo by Tom Wei

chest covering to hold CADIE chips, another Google spoof.

Anyone can summon a Google pigeon by standing on a rooftop, logging on to its Web site with a 3G phone and repeating "gu-gu-gu" into the microphone icon on the screen. Within

20 minutes, a bird will arrive.

And to avoid privacy disputes, those who do not want information on their homes collected by the Google pigeon can make a paper bird according to the instructions provided online, and wave it in their windows when

ever a Google pigeon shows up.

To celebrate the launch of the Google Pigeon Bird's Eye View, Google said it would change the name of the company's Chinese-language blog from "Google Blackboard Daily" to "Google Pigeon Shanzhai Daily." (Agencies)

Market watch

By Jin Zhu

Walt Disney, the world's largest media and entertainment corporation, Monday launched its first B2C (business-to-consumer) online shopping services in China in consideration of the country's huge e-commerce market potential, an official from the company said.

The Web site, xiaozhuren.com/Disney is a small online retailer run by Midway Enterprise, a Disney

partner of 17 years. It is now offering about 5,000 Disney products for sale, said Guenther Hake, senior vice president and managing director of Greater China for Disney Consumer Products.

At present, products on the site include children's clothing, shoes, accessories, toys, stationery, furniture and electronic products. Hake said some of the products are priced lower than they would

be at the Disney store.

While many sites deal in pirate Disney products, only those sold by Xiaozhuren are guaranteed originals. The company is banking on this recognition to drive its growth, Hake said.

The site will also provide cash on delivery sales in 300 cities, including all of China's major ones. Consumers whose cities have no exclusive shop can buy original

Disney products online.

China's B2C e-commerce market is growing. Some 28 percent of Chinese netizens spent 125 billion yuan online last year.

Although the Internet is not Disney's main sales venue in China today, the company has high expectations. "It is predicted that online sales may account for 8-10 percent of the department's future sales in the next five years," Hake said.

Disney launches B2C e-shop

Arguments on 'sunshine' policies and laws

By Zhao Hongyi

In its battle against corruption, the Chinese government two years ago ordered officials, from the central government down to the county level, to declare their personal and family income before taking office.

The directive, dubbed the "sunshine policy" in the media, received overwhelming praise from public. But how to effectively implement it is still an issue in some parts of the country.

In the city of Liuyang, in Hunan Province, the local government immediately acted on the order. Officials were required to declare their financial status yearly to the

discipline and supervision organization of the Communist Party, then post the document on the walls of government buildings.

Now, Liuyang wants to improve on the execution of the policy.

The city wants more information from local officials: their monthly income, annual income and earnings from investments. In addition, they are required to present to local media their financial status, job situation, overseas travel records and the use of government vehicles by their spouse and children, as well as weddings and funerals in the family.

The policy took effect at the beginning of this year, and covers officials of residential communities and villages. Meanwhile, local media that receive the reports include TV stations, newspapers, radio stations and Web sites.

Liuyang said it expects the move to strengthen the force of the central government's order and compel officials to behave properly. Citizens are also encouraged to take on a watchdog role, it said.

The directive received the public's support, but generated complaints from local officials who said the decision infringed on their privacy and rights.

Expert View

Better implementation needed, but on the right road

It is a typical case exposing the flaws and disorder in China's political reform. We can't say it's right or wrong because we are still searching for ways to better implement sunshine policies.

Time is needed to find the best way to fight corruption, while at the same time protecting officials' privacy.

We need to improve our legal system in this regard, such as how to implement sunshine policies. But we're going in the right direction.

Officials cannot refuse to

declare their personal and family finances. Even in developed countries, where the privacy of citizens is fully protected, government officials have to be transparent. If you want the job, then you have to sacrifice your privacy because you are receiving and using public funds.

On the other hand, getting rid of corruption does not simply mean adopting the practice of developed countries as we have our unique situation.

— Qu Maohui, professor of Human University

Comment

Step up but not rush it

Premier Wen Jiabao said at the National People's Congress last month that sunshine policies are urgently needed, but not to rush them. We have to let the whole country discuss the details.

The core issue is not whether we need or do not need the laws. It is when, where and how to make and

implement them.

Debates are helpful for us to make the laws better and faster. The final goal of this process is to make officials give up their desire, daring and capability for corruption.

— Hou Xinyi, law professor at Nankai University

Bring out concrete measures

We have been calling for sunshine policies for a decade,

yet recent discussions have become an entertainment program instead of a serious political topic. We need concrete steps, not discussions and quarrels!

— Wang Pan,

Xi'an Evening News

A culture of keeping certain matters private

We Chinese people have a culture of avoiding exposing too many private matters, espe-

cially about income. My wife and children cannot tolerate the order I have to comply with just because I work for the grassroots government! Can you show me the laws that say I have to follow? I'm an official as you say, but I'm an individual first of all! But who gives a care about my privacy? Where is my privacy?

— angryofficial,

bbs.liuyang.com.cn

Where do you draw the line?

Must I report from time to time small salary received? Such as the remuneration from published articles, speeches, money received by my child during Spring Festival? What about winnings I might receive from lotto in the future?

— heyhey007, bbs.cnwest.com

Compulsory education extended from 9 to 12 years?

By Wang Yu

It was probably the most controversial story to come out of a Guangzhou seminar on teenagers' education. Sun Xiaoyun, vice director of the China Youth and Children Research Center, said at the conference Tuesday that a detailed plan for the reform of the country's education system will be released August, including a move to extend the period of compulsory education from nine to 12 years.

"We intend to put it in the plan, but it still takes time," Sun said. Compulsory education in China currently consists of six years of primary school and three years of junior high school. Sun said the new plan suggests adding three more years of compulsory high school.

The issue has long been a subject of heated discussion. Educators in major cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou are pushing for 12 years of compulsory education, but the income gap with poorer areas of the country has held back any changes. Even Sun admitted there are still 27 counties that cannot afford to offer the compulsory nine years' education.

A statement from the ministry of education maintaining the status quo might be the last word on the topic — for now. The priority is to consolidate in the west the nine years of education, and to continue to reduce the level of illiteracy in the country. The government does not have enough finances to support a 12-year compulsory education system, the statement said.



Any proposed changes on the length of compulsory education generate heated discussion. CFP Photo

Comment

Creating better talent is the bigger issue

The most important issue our education system needs to solve is how we can create more high-quality talents or train students to become skilled workers to meet the demands of society. Extending the period of compulsory education is only one part of systemic reform.

If the system becomes focused on the enrolment rate, this might

only add more pressure to students and cause an imbalance between the supply and demand for human resource.

— Xiong Bingqi, education researcher and professor, Shanghai Jiaotong University

Funding is key to quality public education

The public education system in the US offers 12 years of compulsory education. It's free except for meal expenses and other inci-

dental expenses; students don't have to buy textbooks, which are provided by the school, but they have to return the books after they finish the course.

But this requires a huge budget, which is supported by the federal government. So though different states have different financial situations, they share the same resource for funding education. I think without enough money, the Chinese

government should transfer education legislation to local governments, who will adjust their policies based on their needs and situation.

— Wang Qian, immigrant in the US and former civil servant in China

Both plans be implemented

Whether we adopt nine or 12 years of compulsory education, the final goal is to avoid social marginalization as a result of

an imbalance in the distribution of educational resources. Some developed areas have the financial capability to extend the period of compulsory education. If they do so, the knowledge gap between locals and those from immigrant families will narrow.

In western areas, the nine years' compulsory education can be maintained.

— Qu Zhengzhou, news critic

Making music for young earthquake survivors

By Wang Yu

The next album of Abigail Washburn, an American singer and clawhammer banjo player will be released in the US and Europe on May 12, the first year anniversary of the Sichuan earthquake. This is not a coincidence. *After Quake*, produced by Washburn, contains songs performed by some of the quake's youngest survivors.

A surprise recording artist

Washburn, 29, did not set out to become a recording artist or a songwriter. Before her love affair with the banjo began, the Evanston, Illinois native worked as a lawyer. She attended Colorado College where she became the school's first East Asian studies major.

In 1996, Washburn made her first trip to China where she attended summer school at Fudan University in Shanghai. She came back to the country in 2000 to work for a Beijing consulting company.

Before returning to China on her third trip, she went on a road trip in the US to say good-bye to family and friends. She decided to make a stop in Kentucky, a state with a big banjo culture. "So I was there, learning some banjo. One day I was hanging out at a festival, and a producer walked by and offered me a record deal, and my whole life changed," Washburn said. "It's like a dream-come-true to a dream I never had."

Struck by inspiration

Washburn was in Tennessee May 12 last year when she heard that a magnitude-8 tremor had struck Sichuan Province. Months later, she went to Sichuan University to teach American traditional music. It was during that time that she got a chance to visit Emeishan, one of the places devastated by the earthquake, and share her music with young survivors.

Her music became a form of catharsis for the children who were in temporary housing away from their parents. "At first I thought maybe I could go back to play more music for them as it helped them release their emotions. Then I came to the idea of making a record of them," Washburn said.

On her next trip to Emeishan, she brought along with her New York electronic artist Dave Liang. For four days, they recorded the students singing, the school bell ringing and the children running around on the playground. These



Washburn used to played in the Sparrow Quartet which released its first album in May 2008.

Photos provided by Abigail Washburn

sounds were incorporated into seven tracks in the new album.

Sounds and songs

In one recording, Washburn asked the students to use their voice to demonstrate how the earthquake sounded. The result is hair-raising; you can almost hear the children's fear. Some tracks feature melodies sang

by the kids; others the sound of their clapping to replace the usual drum loops.

"Song for Mama" was performed by 13-year-old Chen Honglin, who had an extraordinarily beautiful voice. "After recording him singing, we went to Wenchuan (County) and played the clip to his parents. His mother cried and cried," Washburn said. "Sometimes it's too easy for artists to use a disaster to promote themselves. I don't wanna promote myself, but rather let people hear the kids' voice," she said.

Washburn however said the audience in China at least once a year – for passion rather than money. "Every time I come here to play, I lose money. But I love it," she said.

A bridge between cultures

The artist continues to perform in China at least once a year – for passion rather than money. "Every time I come here to play, I lose money. But I love it," she said.

For now, Washburn is focused on building up her name in the US, in the hopes that it will translate into a bigger following overseas. "If I am successful in America, it may be translated here."

But more than anything, she wants to create music that will be a bridge between the US and China. "My ultimate goal is to help people in the two countries learn from each other. Even more important than intelligence and the mind is the heart where true transformation happens. And music is the key to the heart," she said.



Danish architect promotes 'humanized city'



Jan Gehl

Photo by Zheng Lu

By Zheng Lu

Danish architect Jan Gehl asked his standing-room-only audience at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) to hand him beverage bottles and thick volumes of books during a lecture last Friday. He then stacked the books and laid out the bottles on a desk to represent a design of a high-rise block popular in the 1960s.

Gehl, 72, was once fascinated with such architectural designs "till I married a psychologist," he said, causing his audience at CAFA's auditorium to break into laughter. Gehl said his wife inspired him to become a "distinctive" architect; he changed his mind about designing a city of skyscrapers after his wife asked him, "Why don't you think from the human point of view instead of designing as if you were in the sky?"

Gehl said he then realized big cities seemed cold and sterile. Cities like New York, Dubai and Shanghai were "designed for airplanes to look down upon," he said. "Such designs, plus cars which later became popular, aggravated the situation by separating humanity from the city." Such cities were almost designed to be a huge parking lot, Gehl said.

The architect, who is a visiting professor at 17 universities worldwide, said a good city should be friendly to walkers, and should make people feel safe when they visit older and less wealthy neighborhoods. "Mankind is a slow, linear, horizontal, max 5 kilometer per hour walking creature," Gehl said, again eliciting laughter from his audience of architecture students.

Emphasizing the need for more human warmth in urban design, Gehl pointed to a picture of a bench in a narrow lane between two skyscrapers. "Imagine sitting here with your girlfriend and asking, 'will you marry me?'"

Gehl is not against high-rises. He said tall buildings are needed, but it is important they are designed big enough to allow comfortable human movement. He said most city dwellers do not like to engage in activities in public areas because there are few places they find suitable. Gehl thinks this is one of the reasons people are becoming increasingly fat. "It is so funny that people would rather pay a fitness center to exercise instead of running on the road," he said.

Gehl is now part of a program to help "reclaim man's right to use public areas" in New York, an automobile-dominated city that is now trying to establish a bicycle rental system that will cover 6,000 kilometers. In contrast, he noted that the number of Chinese people using bicycles is becoming smaller.

"If you can do it in New York, you can do it everywhere," Gehl quoted a song, saying he believed that in a few years, cities would become a better place to live in. He said he did not know Beijing enough to make suggestions on how to put his ideas into action, but said he found *hutong* good areas for walking. "I hope you will also consider the human angle when you become architects," he told the students.

Bangladesh expects more exchanges with China

By Zhao Hongyi

"We certainly welcome more Chinese tourists to Bangladesh," Munshi Faiz Ahmad, the Bangladeshi ambassador, said during the country's 38th Independence Day celebration in Beijing.

Ahmad made the statement in response to a question about how the South Asian nation regards Chinese tourists, who are pouring out to see the world. Bangladesh is a top destination for Chinese travelers.

The Bangladesh embassy in Beijing issues about 800 visas to Chinese citizens each month, 30 percent of which are tourist visas. "We hope the figure increases in the next few years," the ambassador said.

China has long supported developments in Bangladesh culture, education, agriculture, defense, science and technology, and tourism. Bilateral trade is expected to reach US \$4 billion (27 billion yuan) this year, Ahmad said.

The country awards 80 scholarships to Bangladeshi nationals every year. There are currently around 200 Bangladeshi students in China. In February 2006, China set up a Confucius Institute in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.

China also provides Bangladesh with hybrid rice technology and space data for weather forecasts – crucial information to a developing country with a pop-



Ambassador Faiz Ahmad (left) at the reception.

Photo provided by the Embassy of Bangladesh

ulation of 130 million, Ahmad said. Bangladesh has the world's eighth largest population and is home to the world's third largest Muslim population.

The two countries have close ties in the defense sector. China has long been a major supplier

of military equipment, like fighter jets, to Bangladesh. Military personnel from both countries conduct joint training and international peace-keeping operations.

Bangladesh, which has the world's largest mangrove

forest, is the largest exporter of raw jute and jute goods, and the fifth largest garment exporter. The country gained independence from Pakistan in 1971, and four years later, established diplomatic ties with China.



The logo of China Top Brand Award



Nazi SS logo

Israel concerned over 'SS'-type Chinese brand

By Han Manman

Israeli diplomats in China have raised concerns over a national business awards body with a logo similar to the Nazi SS insignia, and said they plan to hold discussions with the organization to find a way to solve the problem.

Billboard signs for the China Top Brand Award scheme have recently appeared in Hong Kong with a logo much like the lightning bolt insignia used by the German SS, a powerful paramilitary organization responsible for many of the Nazi's worst crimes.

Guy Kivetz, press officer for the Israeli embassy in Beijing, said they want to better get acquainted with the awards body, which recognizes China's best examples of business branding. Kivetz said he believes the group does not have any anti-Semitic objectives.

"There is no anti-Semitism in China, and the attitudes towards Jews, from the past till the present, have always been positive," he said. "We are sure there is no intentional connection whatsoever between the logo and the 'SS' symbol."

But he added: "Because we are aware and understand the sensitivity and the associations this logo can generate, we intend to raise the matter with the organization as soon as possible."

Kivetz said the embassy knows that the perceptions and attitudes towards Jews in China are not based on anti-Semitism, unlike in Europe and other parts of the world. Because of this historical background, what is sensitive and problematic to Israelis and Jews are not perceived as such by the Chinese, who do not make the same associations.

Ignorance over the sensitivity of Nazi-style logos and symbols in Asia, where many people have little knowledge of the Holocaust, has led to incidents in the past.

A Hitler-themed pub in Hong Kong, with walls covered in pictures of the former German leader along with World War II scenes, caused an outcry five years ago, which led to the pictures being removed.

Three ministers visit within two weeks, Australia seeks closer ties

By Venus Lee

Three Australian ministers touched down in Beijing in a span of only two weeks. Last week came the minister of foreign affairs, then this week the minister of trade and the minister of resources and energy, who also holds the tourism portfolio. Australia said the visits aimed to broaden cooperation with China on trade and economic issues, including establishing a free trade agreement between the two nations.

"Our leaders have in recent months reaffirmed the importance of negotiations for a free trade agreement between Australia and China," Foreign Affairs Minister Stephen Smith said at a press conference in Beijing. "It is our very strong hope that genuine progress in the negotiations is achieved this year," said Smith, who came for the second round of the Australia-China Strategic Dialogue with his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi.

"This dialogue provides a timely opportunity to continue our high level engagement with



Stephen Smith

Photo provided by Australia Embassy

China on regional and global strategic issues of importance. The Strategic Dialogue is an important pillar in our expanding bilateral ties with China, and reflects the significance of the relationship between the two countries," Smith said. During the dialogue, both sides also discussed human rights,

cultural and consular issues, as well as regional security and disarmament.

This week, Trade Minister Simon Crean and Resources and Energy Minister Martin Ferguson, who is also the tourism minister, visited the capital to advance free trade negotiations.

Smith said Australia believes

western China can benefit from trade liberalization to develop its potential. During his trip to the country last week, the minister visited cities in Sichuan Province affected by last year's quake, and announced an additional contribution of AU \$275,000 (1.3 million yuan) toward reconstruction efforts.

Smith also said the current global financial crisis means the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international financial institutions need a significant increase in their resources. It is vital therefore that the influence of countries like China be properly reflected in international economic decision-making, he said.

"China is now a major global political and economic force, and makes its influence felt in world affairs. We welcome the vigorous stimulus measures China has adopted, which make a vital contribution to the task of restoring confidence, and will help the Chinese economy counteract the effects of falling global demand," Smith said.

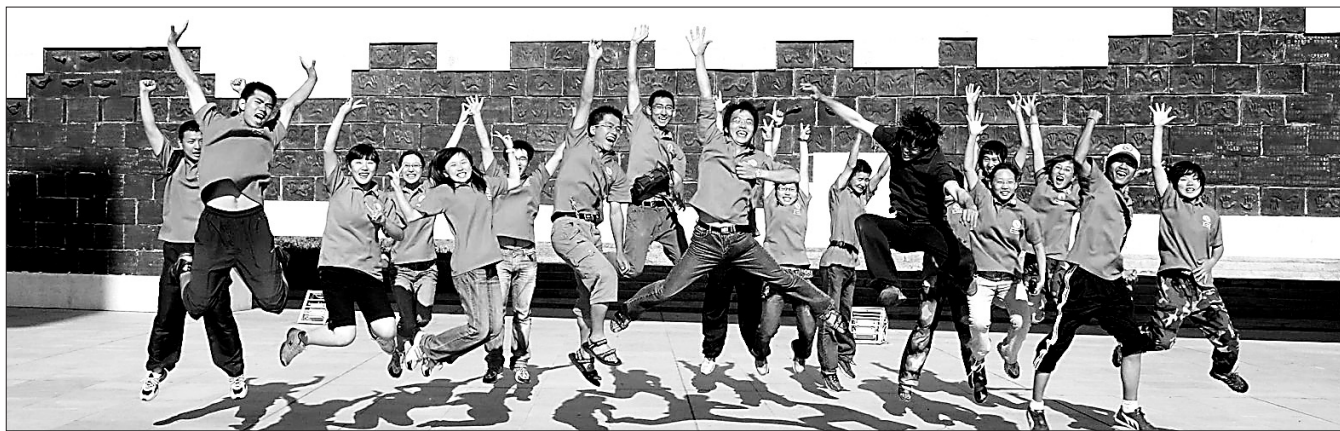
Thousands expected to support Green Long March

By Annie Wei

At least 10,000 students, government officials, environment experts and supporters are expected to join tomorrow's launch of the 2009 Green Long March, China's largest network of student-led environmental campaigners. The group this year aims to support the country's targets of reducing energy consumption and increasing the use of renewable energy.

Students from over 60 universities nationwide participate in Green Long March's year-round programs, including a summer awareness campaign held in 17 provinces. The network is run by NGO Future Generations China and the Beijing Forestry University.

"This year we want to mobilize students to improve energy efficiency and to work with communities on alternative energy projects," said Tong Yu, 21, a Green Long March student leader



Students celebrating the Green Long March

Photo provided by NGO Future Generations China and the Beijing Forestry University

from the Beijing Forestry University. "The Green Long March hopes to inspire young people across China to get involved in solving the climate crisis."

The campaign seeks to bring about positive changes in how people produce, use and conserve

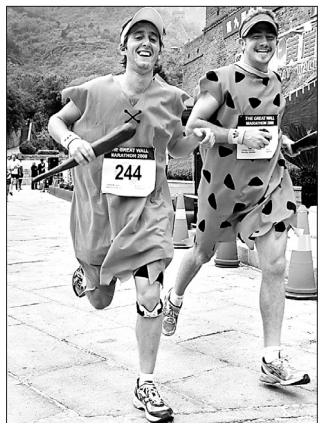
energy. Green Long March will conduct educational drives to promote creative energy solutions in homes, schools and businesses across the country. Additionally, "Green Seed" grants will be awarded to outstanding youth-led community projects that propose solutions to energy

issues and climate change.

The network's focus this year is China's energy goals for 2010: reducing energy consumption per unit of GDP by 20 percent, and increasing the use of renewable energy to 10 percent of total consumption.

Projects include leading campus-based green energy audits, supporting a biogas demonstration village in Guangdong Province and coordinating the construction of an energy-efficient water filtration system in a Sichuan village struck by last year's earthquake.

Marathoners are coming to town



The Great Wall Marathon attracts runners worldwide every year.

Photo provided by the organizer

By Zheng Lu

The 10th Great Wall Marathon on May 16, which takes place in Tianjin's Ji County, will include a 7-kilometer route on the Great Wall.

People can sign up for different runs or the full marathon, depending on their fitness and experience.

Organizers are not putting a limit on the number of participants; at least 2,000 people normally join. "You'd better register as soon as possible so the fee will be lower," said Carl Wang from Prevention through Education, one of the event organizers.

The race does not require participants to have previous marathon experience. But the Tianjin

Travel Bureau, another organizer, said people under age 18 are not allowed to sign up for the full marathon. The bureau also recommends that interested parties get a thorough medical checkup before joining the race.

Organizers said well-prepared runners should be able to complete a full marathon in five to six hours, and in a maximum of eight hours. Organizers have also set a 6-hour cut-off at Kilometer 32 where runners re-enter the Great Wall section of the course.

People who have signed up have until May 13 to change their minds about the course they want to run. On May 14, "inspection day," participants will be taken to the Great

Wall section of the course. There they will receive advice on how to prepare for the race, an official with the Tianjin Travel Bureau said.

During the race, bottled water will be given to runners every four kilometers, at 15 stations. After the race, a simple lunch will be served; free showers and changing rooms will also be available.

Three weeks before the Great Wall Marathon is another race in Juyongguan Pass, Changping District. The marathon on April 25, sponsored by the North Face, still has slots for the 10 and 40-kilometer runs. The latter route will take participants across the biggest forest park in Beijing.

The 10-kilometer race is open to

everyone; people interested in the 40-kilometer one need to submit the results of the previous half marathon they joined.

During the race, routes will be closed to traffic to ensure the runners' safety. Roads may be reopened as late as 9 pm that day. Participants are advised to take Subway Line 2 to Jishuitan or Deshengmen, then transfer to Bus 919 or 345 to Changping District. There, vehicles provided by the organizer will be waiting to take them to the starting line.

Both marathons accept applications online. For more information, check out:

great-wall-marathon.com.cn and thenorthface100.com.cn.

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Foreign teacher sues former school for unfair dismissal

By Zhang Dongya

For most foreigners in China, especially newcomers, teaching at a language school is the easiest job to find. It makes money, takes care of their visa and can be a stepping stone to better work.

Twenty-four-year-old Leroy Philpotts followed the familiar pattern. The Dutchman, who came to Beijing two years ago, went to work as a trainer at Beijing Wall Street English Training Center last year.

But last month, Philpotts sued the center, saying it fired him without just cause. Philpotts accused the company of breaching the new Law of China on Employment Contracts; Beijing Wall Street insists his dismissal was lawful.

The Beijing Municipal Arbitration Committee for Labor Disputes has accepted the case and is expected to hear it this July.



Wall Street English started competing with other foreign language training schools in 2000.

CFP photos

Philpotts: reasons not sufficient

Philpotts began teaching at Wall Street English last June, under a one-year work contract.

At the end of a workday in January, he said his manager Jon Clayton called him over for a talk. It was then he found out the company was firing him.

"From the talk, it seemed like being late for the class preparation hour was one of the biggest reasons he decided to let me go," Philpotts said in an email to *Beijing Today*.

He said Wall Street English teachers are required to come in an hour before class to make preparations, what they call "service hour." Once, he said, he was late for 45 minutes because of an erroneous schedule released online. He said such confusion in the schedule had already occurred a few times before.

Philpotts said Clayton also cited a complaint from a student: A woman from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region said he once uttered a Turkish word derogatory to students.

Philpotts, who can speak several languages, admitted he did talk to the student in Turkish, which is similar to the Uyghur language. But he said he was not aware he used an offensive word.

He described as "weak" the reasons given for firing him.

Wall Street English: dismissal is always the last resort

Wall Street English was established in Beijing in 2000; it opened its first training center at the China World Trade Center. It has since expanded into 11 centers staffed by foreign teachers from all over the world.

"Foreign trainers to us, are scarce resources, which we value very much. It costs much to recruit, train and post them, so we seldom consider dismissals, except in some unacceptable situations," Xiao Yan, PR director of Wall Street English, said.

Li Ran, the company's regional HR manager, said they fired Philpotts based on strong reasons. Last August, two months after he began teaching, he was given a "verbal warning letter" about being late for class, and he signed it in acknowledgment. Subsequent evaluations of his performance generated unsatisfactory results, Li said.

"He continued to show up late and several students sent us complaint letters, including ones about inappropriate jokes in class and dissatisfaction with his teaching," Li said. "We highly value student feedback, so his behavior was considered a breach of our rules and regulations, which gives us the right to terminate his contract."

Law as a last resort during hard times

Wall Street English was Philpotts's only source of income. And after losing the teaching job, a succession of other problems popped up.

"I had to leave China to apply for a visa to reenter ... I also had to find another mailing address as I had been using the school's address. The worst thing was that I had to postpone my university studies online because I don't have any more regular source of income," he said.

Philpotts said he called and wrote Wall Street English to make an appeal, but did not receive a response. Discussions with his Chinese friends prodded him to bring the issue to court. He believes that under the country's new labor law, he is entitled to compensation based on improper work dismissal.

According to Article 87 of the law, which was passed in 2008, if an employer terminates or ends an employment contract in violation of the law, it needs to pay damages to the employee.

"I'm sure they knew of the new labor law in China, because the HR person working for Wall Street English is Chinese. I think they just chose to ignore it as they thought I didn't know about it or would not find out," Philpotts said.

Zhang Ming, a lawyer at Z&Q Law Firm in Beijing, said Philpotts's story is common in



An increasing number of Chinese people want to learn to speak English, which created a huge market for language training schools.

Photo provided by Wall Street English



The new law of China on Employment Contract, passed in 2008, is regarded as pro-employee.

labor disputes, although the parties involved were usually Chinese.

"There were several improper procedures when the company terminated the employment," Zhang said, discussing the Philpotts case. **"First, he was informed of the dismissal orally, with reasons like being late for work or complaints from students. But on paper, there is only the vague statement 'advance termination of contract for personal reasons.' This is not in accordance with the law,"** she said.

Zhang said that even if Wall Street English insists that Philpotts breached its

rules and regulations, leading to unfavorable results, it still had to prove two things: One, that the employee was informed of its rules and the corresponding punishment. Two, that it can present evidence that the employee broke the rules.

Problem-plagued language training market

Language training schools have mushroomed all over the country in recent years in response to changes in Chinese society. More people want to learn to speak English, so there is a huge market for these schools; and few industries will hire foreigners, most of whom cannot speak Chinese well, so teaching becomes their default choice.

The industry, however, has met with problems, especially during the Beijing Olympics. To meet the increased demand for teachers in the run-up to the Games, some schools hired trainers without college degrees or teaching qualifications, said Ed Zingu, from Cape Town, South Africa, who teaches at the Beijing English First Training Center.

Philpotts meanwhile is determined to stand up for his rights and see the lawsuit to the end. "There are English training centers out there that treat their foreign language trainers badly, giving them bull and thinking they can get away with it because supposedly there is nothing we foreign trainers can do," he said.

Philpotts remains in Beijing on a tourist visa, which grants him a maximum stay of 30 days. He can renew his current visa only two more times, but it is just enough time for him to make his date in court.

Foreigners who would like to file similar lawsuits against their employers should go to the Beijing Municipal Arbitration Committee for Labor Disputes. The committee is tasked with dealing with cases related to employers with foreign capital.

Where: 2 Huaibaishu Jie, Xuanwu District
Tel: 6302 1821



in-i ends in its beginning

Binoche and Khan's dance de

In her close-fitting black suit, Binoche looks anything but tired despite a weekend performance in Shanghai. Khan's eyes, on the other hand, look positively bloodshot.

Her Monday press conference at Mei Lanfang Grand Theater when she announced the end of her "dance career" was not a publicity stunt.

Binoche badly injured her knee again at a January performance in Tokyo. Physical therapy every day got her through the final leg of performances, but she says it's too painful to continue.

"Akram Khan told me dancers don't talk about their injuries, so I guess I can't be a dancer anymore," she says, grabbing her knee and laughing.

It takes someone daring or reckless to put the revered French actress – who never studied dance – on the stage of a leading choreographer: it takes someone like Su-Man Hsu.

When Binoche was filming *Breaking and Entering* (2006) in London, her shiatsu masseuse Hsu asked her whether she would like to learn to dance. Binoche said yes and was invited to see Khan's show *Zero Degree*.

After the show, she met Hsu's husband Farooq Chaudhry, the producer. "I had never heard of Akram, but I loved the show. At the end, they asked me if I wanted to go into the studio for three days with Akram and see if anything would come out of it," she says.

Binoche was not good at following Khan's directions, and their arguments began almost immediately.

As the second French actress to win an Oscar, Binoche resisted any movement that failed to convey emotion. Kahn, a Helpmann Award winner for Best Choreography in a Ballet or Dance Work, resisted any movement that betrayed the dancer's emotion.

But despite being new to dance, she was not new to the stage. Binoche's parents are directors. "My first memories are of backstage corridors, smells, lights on mirrors, the laughter of friends and colorful costumes I saw when I was two," she says.

Khan turned to giving suggestions. "I stopped telling her how to move. We talked a lot and that was how we communicated. I absorbed more ideas from her," Khan says.

But choosing Binoche as his dancer was something Khan describes as "intuitive." He was drawn to how she performed in her film roles. The first of her films Khan saw was *The English Patient* (1996).

One of his teachers choreographed a dance based on the film, in which Khan was the Indian boy and his girlfriend played Binoche's role.

When working with Binoche, Khan found she was also a creator. "It is very different from delivering lines (for the camera) – there is life in between her words," he says.

The collaboration was a way for them to learn from each other. Khan compared it to his childhood work with Peter Brook, a British director. "At that time, I couldn't connect to it (Brooke's work). For me, (the message) was in the delivery of the words just as much as in the movements. But never in the stillness. Now I am really enjoying exploring it (theater) this way," he says.

The theme for *in-i* was developed by Binoche to explore the ways people experience love. In Greek, there are 14 words to describe types of love, including love between child and mother, among family members and strangers, captive love and absolute love. The inspiration was drawn from those words.

Binoche and Khan focused on the connection between man and woman to find how many kinds of love exist.

"Love is the only way to survive in this world, and love is what life is about. I think I'm more frightened to be loved than to love – it makes me more vulnerable somehow. I've been disappointed in some of my relationships, so I know that there is something wrong. Something I need to understand, to face or maybe to surrender to," Binoche says.

In creating the dance, she found her ideas about love changed. "As a child, I felt love was 'the most important.' Yet when I discovered all my needs as a teenager, and then through my relationships as I grew up, it became so complex – almost like playing chess," she says.

The dance shows that conflicts, fear, needs and hopes can be walls that a man and a woman must face everyday.

Binoche also gained other more "valuable" experience from Khan. She wants to dance because she loves it. "I love dancing tango, because I feel protected. I don't have to lead. It allows me to move with a different force than a man. That's why working as an actress with a director is comfortable for me," she says.

Without a dance background, it was hard for her to move the way Khan wanted her to, and to keep pace. "I had to overcome a lot of reservations about hurting myself, being out of breath, not being strong enough, not being able to remember things and of falling over," she says.

Progress was slow, much to her frustration. "The steps towards trust are very challenging. The steps to accept that is the real dance," she says.

But throughout it all, Khan was there to support her.

Although she won't dance on the stage, it was a new experience. "The more I connect with the floor, the more free I feel," she says.

n
ing

efines love in all its forms



“My first memories are of backstage corridors, smells, lights on mirrors, the laughter of friends and colorful costumes I saw when I was two.”



“As a child, I felt love was ‘the most important.’ Yet when I discovered all my needs as a teenager, and then through my relationships as I grew up, it became so complex-almost like playing chess.”



Binoche drew several sketches for her first dance.

“The more I connect with the floor, the more free I feel.”



in-i

Where: Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 32 Ping'anli Xi Dajie, Xicheng District

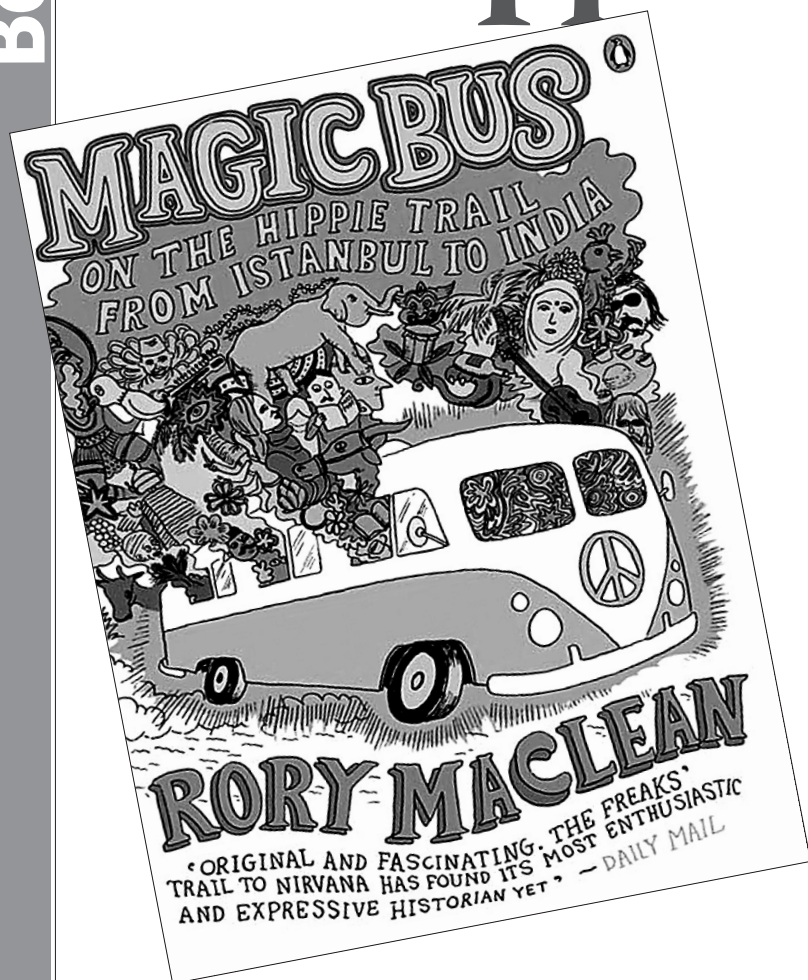
When: April 3, 4 and 5, 7:30 pm

Admission: 1,280 yuan for VIP, 880, 680, 480, 380, 280 and 180 yuan

Tel: 6551 6930

Photos provided by Milky Way Arts and Communications Company

Book takes readers back on hippie trail



By Charles Zhu

An Englishman named "Rudy" bought his first vehicle in 1966 for his trip to Lahore: a second-hand, broken Barn-staple school bus. A mechanic who caught wind of the idea said he'd be lucky to reach Southend, if anywhere.

That mechanic was wrong.

On the trail to Istanbul, he was joined by hordes of hippies, drop-outs and fellow travelers eager to enjoy a trip, despite the fact that they had to push the bus part of the way to Pakistan.

These hippies were at the edge of a movement which began in the streets of Southern California in the 1960s and 70s: a movement where aimless, long-haired youths with backpacks and dirty denim jeans sought to shake the affluent world of their birth.

Canadian travel writer Rory MacLean relives the scene in which thousands of these men and women blazed a "hippie trail" from Istanbul to Katmandu in search of a new life in *Magic Bus, On the Hippie Trail From Istanbul to India* (280pp, Ig Publishing, US \$14.95).

This eastward march of thousands of long-haired Western youths in badly maintained vehicles on the ancient Silk Road is a unique cultural phenomenon never faithfully recorded. In the late 1960s, the Indian government estimated some 10,000 backpackers were roaming its country, driven by the desire for spiritual rebirth.

In *Magic Bus*, MacLean retraces the adventures of those hippies as enlightenment-hungry pilgrims to Shangri-la, driven by the ideals of spiritual gurus like Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Timothy Leary and Bob Dylan.

While one Istanbul journalist called the hippies "the fireworks of freedom," others

would hail them as "hash-and-hepatitis." The angry countercultural intrepids smoked dope with locals and whipped up a defilement of native culture.

The author met one original Flower Child who rode the magic bus with Ken Kesey, the post-modernist author of *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*. In Tehran, the capital of the Islamic revolution, he found two Iranian boys whose dream of wealth in the West ended in tragedy. At Bagram airbase he sang *Aquarius* with US Special Forces commandos in paisley shirts and granny glasses. In Kabul he picked through the smashed statues which are now Afghanistan's history. The Kabul he saw reminded him of Dresden or Hiroshima after World War II.

But the picture was not always bleak. He met Carla Grissmann, the "Grandmother Intrepid," whose wanderlust "predated the Beatles and Beats," at the sandy ruin where Kabul's once grandiose museum stood. The lady was gleefully trying to piece together broken parts of precious pottery shattered willfully by the Taliban Minister of Culture. "I weep for the Kabul I knew and loved," she said.

MacLean met the wise Rama Tiwari, a pleasant bookseller and publisher who almost inspired him to take on a guru of his own. Rama "touched and enlightened more Intrepids than any other Indian" with his earthly pragmatism.

Rama's greatest lesson? "We can only live in happiness if we conquer the restless dream that paradise is in a world other than our own."

But for MacLean, the hippies still deserve respect as they "brought minority rights, ecology and alternative medicine into the mainstream," and "for a few short years tied together with the world."

New collection to memorialize 'Chinese Nietzsche'

By He Jianwei

Haizi had enough when at age 25 he laid down on the rails at Beijing Shanhaiguan on March 26, 1989.

Twenty years after the poet's suicide, *The Complete Poems of Haizi* (edited by Xi Chuan, 1,200pp, The Writers Publishing House, 88 yuan) was released at Beijing University to commemorate his death.

Haizi, originally named Zha Haisheng, wrote 2 million poems, novels, dramas and dissertations. Most of his poetry was published between 1984 and 1989, and he was a major contemporary poet.

After his death, his friends Xi Chuan and Luo Yihe started to collect his work. Luo died when a blood vessel to his brain collapsed 49 days after Haizi's suicide, leaving Xi Chuan to finish the job alone.

In 1997, Shanghai Sanlian Press published Haizi's poems compiled by Xi Chuan. "Haizi's poetry was his life, and his life was a poem: an extremely short poem," he said.

This collection is updated with Haizi's earliest works and new discoveries.

The book contains 300 lyric poems, 10 long poems, nine essays and novels, and 10 diaries and poetries. Haizi's 22 illustrations for *The Sun* are also included.

Haizi admired Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh and called Van Gogh his "twin brother," though he

never worked in illustration. "All these illustrations (in *The Sun*) have simple lines. An ink dot might represent the sun," he said, and hinted that the illustrations were a key to understanding his poems.

The Sun established Haizi a Friedrich Nietzsche figure in Chinese poetry circles.

He was a genius, "a man of childlike

innocence [whose] poems have a magic beyond their times," He Sanpo, a literary critic, said.

Haizi's friend Luo once predicted it will be a millennium before the poems could be understood.

Others said Haizi's poems were not as good as claimed. "He was not an alternative poet. His poetry fits utopian romantics of his time, so his work attracted many adolescents," Yu Jian, a poet, said.



Bookworm book listing

Vivian Wang from the Bookworm recommends the following best sellers to *Beijing Today* readers.

Bomb, Book and Compass: Joseph Needham and the Great Secrets of China

By Simon Winchester, 256pp, Penguin Books, US \$32.95

Joseph Needham was a distinguished biochemist at Cambridge University, married to a fellow scientist – before fate intervened. In 1937, he was asked to supervise a young Chinese student named Lu Gwei-Djen, and in that moment he began the two greatest love affairs of his life: Miss Lu and China. Lu inspired Needham to travel to China where he spent three dangerous years as a wartime diplomat. By the end of his life, Needham had become the pre-eminent China scholar of all time, a truly global figure, traveling endlessly and honored by all. In 1989, after a 52-year affair, he finally married the woman who first inspired his passion.

Free World: Why a Crisis of the West Reveals the Opportunity of Our Time

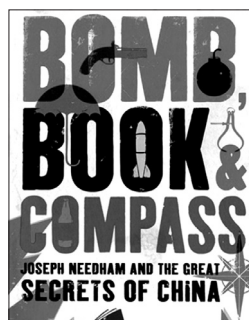
By Timothy Garton Ash, 336pp, Penguin Books, US \$14.95

What began as an attack on the West by Osama bin Laden soon became a dramatic confrontation between Europe and America. Britain has found itself painfully split, because it stands with one foot across the Atlantic and the other across the Channel. The English, in particular, are hopelessly divided between a Right that argues its place is with America, not Europe, and a Left that claims the opposite. This is today's English civil war. Both sides say they must choose. Timothy Garton Ash explains in this new work why England cannot, need not and must not choose between Europe and America.

English: A Novel

By Wang Gang, 320pp, Viking Adult, US \$24.95

During the Cultural Revolution, a 12-year-old boy named Love Liu wonders what life is like beyond Xinjiang in China's remote northwest. Into his school, comes a tall, clean-shaven teacher from Shanghai with an elegant gray wool jacket and an English dictionary tucked under his arm. With the dictionary at his disposal, Love Liu throws himself into learning English, and a new world opens up for him. (By He Jianwei)



Seven trends to remake your winter wardrobe

By He Jianwei

Fashion week is not just a boisterous festival for designers, models and celebrities: it also gives a sneak peak into your fall shopping options.

China Fashion Week's 09/10 Autumn and Winter Collections brought to the forefront the works of local designers in 20 shows last week. Designers and fashion editors picked out seven new elements sure to shake this year's lineup.



Collage ①

"A collage of colors, patterns and fabrics is the way to stand out this autumn and winter," said Vincent Wang, a contributor to local fashion magazines like the Chinese *Vogue* and *Figaro*.

Both Chen Juanhong's Judy Galaxy collection and student pieces from the WSM (Weisman) China Knitwear Design Contest were keen on collage.

The art form finds a beauty of chaos. "It is daring for anyone ordinary, but if the style fits, he or she will be sure to sparkle this autumn and winter," he said.



LOHAS ②

This new acronym describes what began with the organic craze: young Chinese seeking "lifestyles of health and sustainability." Local designers took their preferences into account with environmentally friendly materials like organic cottons and natural dyes.

They also advocated environmental protection at their shows. For the Cabbeen Men's Wear Collection, the designer had his models ride bicycles on stage. "If everyone passed on driving a car one day each month, the environment would be much better," Cabbeen Yang said.



High Tech ③

It does not take long for new technology to make it into fashion.

Many sports brands are focusing on high-tech equipment for athletes, and the incredible records set at last year's Olympic Games owe at least a small nod to the designers.

But for the non-athletic, aerodynamic swimwear is not so important. Invista instead focused on a more consumer-friendly invention at the Sixth China Swimwear Design Contest: Xtra Life Lycra.

"The new fabric prevents chlorine from damaging swimwear," said Cai Ying, the company's manager of technology research and application.



Knitwear ④

"Knitwear is traditionally reserved for sweaters gifts from mom ... but our knitwear contest revealed its other possibilities," Guo Pei, a renowned designer and contest judge, said.

The contest winner was Ma Lin, a student from the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology. Ma's design of knitted butterflies was inspired by the film title "The Butterfly Effect."

Lace ⑤

Lace is usually used to adorn clothes or ladies' lingerie, but Chen Juanhong's collection would use it to wrap the whole body.

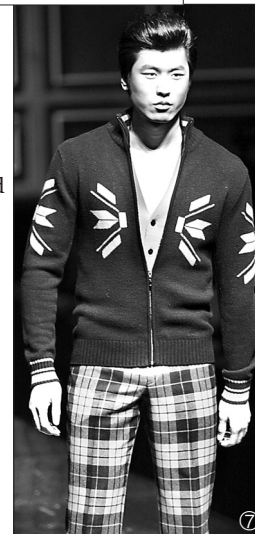
"For women, lace equals sexy," Chen said.



Long and knitted scarf ⑥

Maybe it was a coincidence that the long knitted scarf was a design favorite both at China Fashion Week and in Men's Milan Fashion Week this January.

In the Nottingham Men's Fashion Collection, designers wrapped the models with this kind of scarf. The scarf extends beyond knee length.



Plaid ⑦

A highland wind blew over the stage in both the men's and women's collections. Designers were big on plaid skirts, pants and coats.

The Septwolves collection used the red and blue plaids to create a properly Scottish look, while Cabbeen went with white, black and grey. "These colors are not dangerous, but when combined in plaid they become more edgy," he said.

CFP Photos

Urban gear and havens

Urban functionality

By Annie Wei

Most "IT" bags share similar drawbacks: Their all-leather material and various ornamentation make them too heavy, or they are too small to fit the basic necessities.

To find a functional yet stylish bag, check out Crumpler, a brand known for its messenger bags. Crumpler products are made of nylon and are light and durable; their design fits the lifestyle of urban dwellers, especially those who carry around laptops and bulky documents.

The company's three founders, who used to be in the courier business in Melbourne in the 1990s, decided to design their own messenger bags after they had difficulty finding quality ones in the market.

The brand also has a camera bag series that provides a good companion to expensive camera equipment. This is one of the Australia-based company's best-sellers, which comes in different sizes to meet different types of cameras.

At Crumpler's Beijing store, its Headatch series has become the most popular – bags characterized



by their bright candy colors.

The brand makes luggage for travelers as well. They have carry-ons that are convenient for passengers who prefer

not to check in suitcases; mid-sized ones for short or domestic trips; and large ones for international travel or for shopping addicts.

The price of a Crumpler bag ranges from several hundred to several thousand yuan, depending on the style. The company offers a lifetime warranty for its products.

Crumpler

Where: SLG 46101, The Village, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 9:30 pm

Tel: 6416 0527



Photos by Zhao Jinwei

Camera bags are one of Crumpler's best sellers and come in many colors and sizes.

Fashion inspiration on display

By Zhang Dongya

If you adore fashion but are tired of browsing shopping malls, why not visit The Orange Hall, where there is an exhibition by the graduates of the China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA). You may not buy anything at the exhibit, but you will leave inspired by the dazzling display of beautiful clothes.

The exhibition, titled None & More, showcases works by 12 undergraduate and three graduate students from CAFA's Design School. The clothes, 90 pieces in all, include 13 that revolve around fashion brands and two previously exhibited at Fashion Art, the exhibition held in CAFA. The exhibition, now on its fourth year, focuses on different aspects of fashion, society and culture.

One collection called Nuan, or Warm, by Feng Huang, is made from pure cashmere and silk. The hand-tailored clothes have a simple style, an elegant outline and are in warm colors like red, yellow and orange.

Other designs incorporate ideas from Chinese culture and philosophy. Postgraduate student Tan Yali created her logo by combining the Chinese word *rongyi*, or "easy," with the numeral "zero."

Tan separated the characters *rong* and *yi*, which gave them a new meaning that seems to say, "everything can be easy if you have the tolerance." She liberally uses circles in her designs, to present the idea of tolerance and to convey a certain philosophy in life.

Where: The Orange, The Village, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District

When: Until April 6, 12 pm – 8 pm weekdays; 10 am – 8 pm weekends

Tel: 6417 6110



Undergraduate student Lee Yumo's design

Photos by Zhao Jinwei

Free coffee for book lovers

By Zhang Dongya

If you ask any receptionist at Sanlitun's The Village for directions to the O2 Sun Bookstore, his or her response will likely be: "Go to the ground floor and just follow the smell of coffee." The store's newest branch, opened two weeks ago, offers shoppers a cup of American coffee with every purchase – but only until April 18.

Like its other branches, the Sanlitun bookstore stocks both Chinese and English titles; Chinese books however fill the majority of shelves. Displayed conspicuously are the latest Chinese releases. The classics of modern Chinese literature are also available; it has nearly every work by Wang Xiaobo and Yu Hua, the country's leading contemporary novelists. Chinese translations of world literature are for sale as well.

For foreign language readers, there are about three shelves holding English titles and a smaller number of books in European languages.

There are also books on language learning, mind and soul, business management and travel.

Aside from books, O2 Sun also sells notebooks, pads, pens with cute designs, as well as magazines, CDs and DVDs of the latest music and films.

A coffee shop located beside the book section serves reasonably priced coffee, including varieties of Italian coffee (22 yuan). There are also desserts to go with drinks, but most of all, a cozy place to read new book purchases.

During the first month the store is open, which lasts till April 18, people can apply for a O2 Sun Club membership card for a minimum purchase of 200 yuan in one receipt. Normally, a minimum spending of 380 yuan is required to get the card.

With the card, shoppers can enjoy a 10-percent discount on all O2 Sun products. Additionally, members get 20 percent off new products, which come every two weeks.

O2 Sun Bookstore

Where: SLG 57, The Village, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm



O2 Sun Boostore creates a warm and cozy atmosphere for urban readers.

Photos by Annie Wei



Crumpler store at The Village

Best wines under 100 yuan

By Annie Wei

A few weeks ago, two wine connoisseurs, Jim Boyce from Grapewallofchina.com and Nicolas Carre from Maxim's de Paris restaurant at Solana, organized a wine contest. Their goal was to discover the "best wines under 100 yuan."

They invited wine experts and "amateurs" to judge 21 white and 23 red wines from Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Italy and Spain.

Beijing Today presents the results of the Grape Wall of China wine contest – a guide to wine shopping in these recessionary times.



Top 3 red wines

Cedar Creek (Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon) 2008, Australia / 92 yuan

Silky red with an intense raspberry flavor and hints of cedar, Shiraz-Cabernet is a classic Australian blend of grape varieties. This appealing, easy drinking example is an excellent food wine; its soft and silky texture also makes it perfect for drinking at parties.



Callia Alta (Shiraz, Malbec) 2007, Argentina / 72 yuan

This Shiraz-Malbec has a beautiful color of intense violet with ruby tints. Its aromatic intensity of ripe blackberries, plums and figs, together with sweet tannins and a well-balanced acidity, offers a perfect structure. A full-bodied wine with a long finish, it is perfect with pasta in rich sauce.

Kleine Zalze Foot of Africa (Pinotage) 2007, South Africa / 99 yuan

This wine has a plum red color, the aromas of berry and cherry, and ripe banana flavors supported by soft, gentle tannins. The superb structure of this Pinotage makes an enjoyable finish. Enjoy it with dishes like lamb, curry or any roast with a not-too-spicy sauce.

Top 3 white wines

Zonin Terre Palladiane Soave DOC (Garganega, Trebbiano) 2007, Italy / 96 yuan

This 100 percent Garganega wine is elegant, offering aromas of good intensity: scents of white flowers combined with those of slightly green apples. The flavor is balanced and persistent; the aftertaste is delicate.

Bushman's Gully (Semillon, Chardonnay) 2008, Australia / 92 yuan

Made with Semillon and Chardonnay, this wine reveals a medium straw color with a tinge of green. It has ripe tropical fruits with herbaceous hints and well integrated oak – tropical flavors finishing with a lingering crispness.

Farmese Primo Malvasia IGT (Malvasia) 2007, Italy / 92 yuan

This straw yellow-colored wine is medium-bodied with a well-balanced acidity and the aroma of banana and figs. Malvasia grapes make it a very fresh wine, balanced and persistent.

Others:

Red wine

Paso del Sol (Melot) 2007, Chile / 95 yuan
Concha y Toro Frontera (Cabernet Sauvignon) 2008, Chile / 79 yuan
Michel Torino (Malbec) 2007, Argentina / 98 yuan
Domaine du Landeyran AOC St. Chinian (Grenache, Syrah) 2005, France / 85 yuan
Santa Carolina (Cabernet Sauvignon) 2007, Chile / 98 yuan
Senorio de Alange (Tempranillo) 2005, Spain / 79 yuan
Leopard's Leap: The Lookout (Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Cinsault) 2006, South Africa / 95 yuan

White wine:

Stella Solaris (Chardonnay) 2006, Chile / 62 yuan
Santa Rita 120 (Sauvignon Blanc), 2008, Chile / 93 yuan
Santa Helena Reserva (Chardonnay) 2005, Chile / 96 yuan
San Medin (Sauvignon Blanc) 2007, 91 yuan
Concha y Toro Frontera (Sauvignon Blanc) 2007, Chile / 79 yuan
San Medin (Sauvignon Blanc) 2007, Chile / 91 yuan
Chateau Roque-Peyre AOC (Montravel Sauvignon-Semillon) 2007, France / 89 yuan
French Paradox Reserve (Viognier) 2006, France / 90 yuan

What local consumers thought of the wines

Contest organizers Boyce and Carre revealed some of the jury's findings that they found interesting.

According to the contest's scoring system, consumers were only required to rate each wine with "love it," "like it," "dislike it" or "hate it." The experts had to give a score from one to 20.

Consumers tended to give higher scores to white wines compared to reds. Among the whites, 26 received "love it," while only eight reds did. The score among experts did not vary much. It seems the experts thoroughly analyzed their drink, while the consumers gave a more spontaneous response.

Chinese wine drinkers preferred non-traditional grapes. For example, some picked Pinotage, a type of African grape, which some professionals disliked.

"It's interesting. Experts drink so much Cabernet that they prefer wine made of this grape. But local consumers prefer distinguishing flavors. For example, Pinotage and Merlot ranked No. 1 among red wines," Boyce said.

As for white wine, Chinese consumers preferred Garganega and Trebbiano, two types of grapes from Italy. People from big wine countries would say "I like Chardonnay" instead of "I love Garganega or Trebbiano," Boyce said.

"People like the taste they're accustomed to," he said, but added that "too many people follow fashion instead of what they really like."

Carre said he was not surprised by the difference in choices between wine professionals and amateurs.

He said wines are influenced by the image of their country of origin, and that looking at history, places that learned to appreciate wine started with white wine. White wine is a simple and less complicated wine, Carre said. "Maybe the market here should be bigger for white wine."

The organizers also said that Chinese consumer-judges were very confident in their views, instead of getting swayed by the experts.

Future wine events

Boyce and Carre plan to organize more wine contests. Among them is "You Be the Judge," an event in which anyone can just pop in and judge the same wines presented at the Grape Wall of China.

Another event will introduce small Chinese wineries, like Yunnan Hong in Yunnan Province and Grace in Xinjiang. They want to present wines made of Chinese grapes as an alternative to imported ones. This time, more foreigners will be invited to judge.



Wine experts and consumers judged the wines at Maxim's de Paris restaurant at Solana.

Photos by Nicola Carre



Shining the spotlight on young modern dancers

By He Jianwei

The first Beijing Dance Festival last year featured internationally renowned dance companies; this year, the organizer, BeijingDance/LDTX (Leidong Tianxia) dance company, will put the spotlight on new Chinese dance troupes.

In the country's current artistic climate, it is difficult for young and unknown artists to find opportunities to perform, Willy Tsao, the company's artistic director, said. "BeijingDance/LDTX wants to change the situation by providing opportunities for them to learn, exchange knowledge and perform on the

Beijing's stage."

The festival, to be held at the Oriental Pioneer Theater from April 15 to 19, will showcase five performances made up of more than 50 original works by dozens of choreographers and dancers.

One of China's leading modern dance companies, BeijingDance/LDTX strives to promote, inspire and provide opportunities to young modern dance artists. When the company earlier this year called for participants to the second dance festival, professional troupes from all over the country responded, including those from Guangxi,

Shandong, Tianjin, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

New talents are expected to shine; one of them is Xing Liang, from Hong Kong's City Contemporary Dance Company. Xing, who has won a string of national and international awards, including gold in the male solo class at the 1994 Paris International Dance Competition and gold in the modern dance division at the 1998 Paris International Dance Competition, will do a solo about existence and the pursuit of personal freedom.

The Taipei Crossover Dance Company, founded by four veteran dancers who have made

a name for themselves with the acclaimed

Cloud Gate Dance Theater of Taiwan, does dancing, acting and singing. Their performances are a mix of music, theater, film, literature and installations.

Second Beijing Dance Festival

Where: Oriental Pioneer Theater, 8-2 Dongdan Santiao (east of the Oriental Plaza), Dongcheng District

When: April 15-19, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80 yuan for adults; 40 yuan for students
Tel: 6559 7364

Upcoming

Exhibition

In Search of Lost Time

Where: Comptoirs de France, East Lake Villas, 35 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: April 11 - June 11, 3-8 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 13911317192

Stage in May

Concert

Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic Soloists

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 1-2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-600 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

To Meet Haydn - Fu Cong Piano Recital

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: May 3, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

The Chanticleer Choir

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-380 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

China Philharmonic Orchestra Commemorates Haydn

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: May 16, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-680 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

China Philharmonic Orchestra Symphony Concert 2008-2009 Season

Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Liubukou, Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: May 23, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6605 7006

Opera

Puccini's La Boheme

Who: Directed by Chen Xinyi
Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 1-4, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

The Peony Pavilion

Who: China National Ballet
Where: Tianqiao Theater, 21 Beiwei Lu, Tianqiao, Xuanwu District

When: May 1-3, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-600 yuan
Tel: 8315 6337

Firebird Premiere & Classic Ballet Selections

Who: China National Ballet
Where: Beijing University Centennial Memorial Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District
When: May 8-9, 7 pm
Admission: 20-280 yuan
Tel: 6275 1278

Thumbelina

Who: St. Petersburg State Children's Ballet
Where: Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 32 Ping'anli Xi Dajie, Xicheng District
When: May 29, 2:30 pm; 4 pm
Admission: 80-580 yuan
Tel: 5833 1288

Friday, April 3

Exhibition

His Story - Sun Xun Solo Exhibition

Where: ShangART Beijing, 261 Caochangdi, Chaoyang District

When: April 3-30, daily except Monday, 1-6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 3202

Jianxingjianmei - China-South Korea Art Exchange Exhibition

Where: Beijing Wan Fung Art Gallery, 35-37 Guanyintang Art Avenue, 2A Wangsiying, Chaoyang District

When: Until April 6, 10 am - 5 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6523 3320

Movie

Black Book



Where: Blend Coffee, 1354 Building 13, Jianwai SOHO West Zone, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5869 5030

Cast Away

Where: 1905 Movie Club, B2, 6 Xiangjun Bei Li, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 10 yuan
Tel: 6591 8189

Nightlife

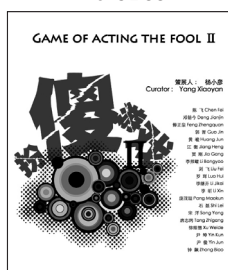
Xingfu Avenue & Hanggai

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 8 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Sunday, April 5

Exhibition

Game of Acting the Fool II



Where: Gallery TN, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until June 30, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9550

He An: What Makes Me Understand What I Know?

He An holds his first solo show in an art institution as part of the series "What Makes Me Understand What I Know?" The artist graduated from the Hubei Academy of Fine Arts and has participated in group exhibitions locally and abroad, mostly presenting his pictorial works.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until April 12, daily except Monday, 10 am - 7 pm
Admission: 15 yuan; free on Thursdays
Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife

Commemorating Kurt Cobain

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 9 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Honey Gun

Where: 13 Club Bar, 161 Chengfu Lu, Lanqiying, Haidian District
When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6088 7715

Tamas Wells "Valder Fields" China Tour - Beijing

Where: National Library of China Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nan Dajie, Haidian District
When: 8 pm
Admission: 80-560 yuan
(By Jackie Zhang)

Saturday, April 4

Exhibition

Small is Beautiful

Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou District
When: Until April 30 (by appointment only)
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6959 8343



Nature & Wisdom: Journeys to the Himalayas

The art gallery presents a travelogue on Jiang Ling, the most breathtaking and mysterious hiking route in Tibet; the Hippie Trail in Nepal.

Where: Dandeli Art Space, Image Base Beijing, Building 1, 3 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 10 am - 4 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6770 8966

Movie

The Prestige

Where: Blend Coffee, 1354 Building 13, Jianwai SOHO West Zone, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu,

Chaoyang District

When: 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5869 5030

Nightlife

Touch Listening

Where: Cangku Bar, 10 Baoshao Hutong, Dongcheng District
When: 10 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6401 1066

Wang Juan & The Band

Where: Jianghu, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 9 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6401 4611



The Second Beijing Dance Festival will showcase five performances made up of more than 50 original works.

Photo provided by BeijingDance/LDTX

Dentists say new uproar over crowns ungrounded

By Venus Lee

No one wants a mouth full of metal. But dental work is a fact of life, and it takes a lot of work to disguise a crown.

For years, the preferred method to conceal a crown was with a porcelain overlay on top of a nickel-chromium crown. But news circulating on many major Web sites said this method may be linked to kidney disease.

Hospitals called for a halt in using nickel-chromium alloy as a dental material citing its toxicity, but experts from the Chinese Dental Association (CDA) insist the material is safer than scare-mongers suggest.

Is your crown killing your kidneys?

Liu Yuan, the author of the initial report, said he first noticed something was wrong when he had a persistent cough, red dots, hives and a sore throat after being fitted with two porcelain-covered nickel-chromium crowns in 2005. Urine tests revealed he had heavy metal contamination and latent nephritis, a kidney inflammation, in 2006.

He said he realized by chance that the disease was triggered by his crowns when he read another article linking nickel-chromium alloy to kidney disease later that day.

The metal surface is quick to corrode and break down because its edge is exposed to the oral cavity, which is rich in electrolytes. From there, metal ions break free and enter the bloodstream, Hu Fenghui, a dentist in Beijing Jiamei Dental Hospital, said.

"The number of telephone calls for advice is soaring, and we're seeing a lots of patients asking to have their nickel-chromium crowns removed and replaced with traditional gold alloy," Zhou Lijing, vice director of dentistry at Peking University Third Hospital, said.

Correlation does not equal causation

However, the CDA insists there is no direct link between the setting of nickel-chromium crowns and kidney disease.

"Excessive trace elements might lead to kidney disease, for example, too much silver or mercury will influence the kidney's function. But Liu's case alone is not enough to conclude that a porcelain overlay on a nickel-chromium crown causes kidney disease," Feng Hailan, chairwoman of the CDA's Committee of Prosthodontics Research, said. "We won't rule out that the

nickel-chromium alloy could cause an allergic reaction, but this side effect would be limited to the

oral cavity," Feng said.

Cases where nickel causes systemic damage are rare, and cases of organ damage are even rarer, she said.

Nickel-chromium alloy is stable and safe, according to current data, Feng said. People whose crowns have the porcelain overlay and who are still worried about their kidney's health should get a physical examination from a doctor of toxicology or internal medicine. "Patients shouldn't panic over rumors and have their crowns ripped out. It's harmful to the body and wastes money," she said.

Zhao Xinyi, chairman of CDA's Dental Materials Committee, said "nickel ions released from nickel-chromium dental alloy enter the digestive system, and the ions released from the alloy are far fewer than those consumed in an average diet." While the presence of nickel in the bloodstream is bound to increase, Zhao says it is still low enough to be metabolized.

Nickel is an essential trace mineral in the human body. Kitchenware usually contains nickel ions. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates people take in 100 to 600 micrograms of nickel each day: only about 10 micrograms remain in the body.

Why use nickel-chromium alloys?

"Dental materials containing nickel have been used for almost 100 years, and nickel-chromium alloy has been in use for 30 years, making it a fairly mature material in dental restoration and prosthesis," Wang Xing, president of the CDA, said.

Nickel or cobalt-chromium alloy is commonly used for dental crowns, bridge repair and most partial denture frameworks. Wang said it is resistant to further decay, durable, non-corrosive, is minimally invasive, resists leaks and is inexpensive.

There are several other materials commonly used in dental work:

• **Gold alloy:** Beside nickel-chromium alloy, another famous but expensive material is gold alloy, which is a mixture of gold, copper and other noble metals. It is used mainly for crowns and bridges, and for some partial denture frameworks.

• **Dental amalgam fillings:** A dental amalgam is a self-hardening mixture of silver-tin-copper alloy powder and liquid mercury and is sometimes referred to as a silver filling because of its color. It is often used as a filling material and as replacement for broken teeth.

• **Composite resin fillings:** Composite fillings are a mixture of pow-

dered glass and plastic resin, sometimes referred to as white, plastic or tooth-colored fillings. It is used for fillings, inlays, veneers, partial and complete crowns, or to repair portions of broken teeth.

• **Glass ionomer cement:** Glass ionomer cement is a self-hardening mixture of glass and organic acid. It is tooth-colored and varies in translucence. Glass ionomer is usually used for small fillings, cementing metal and porcelain or metal crowns, liners and temporary restorations.

• **Resin-ionomer cement:** Resin ionomer cement is a mixture of glass and resin polymer and organic acid that hardens with exposure to a blue light used in the dental office. It is tooth-colored, but more translucent than glass ionomer cement. It is most often used for small fillings, cementing metal and porcelain metal crowns and liners.

• **Porcelain (Ceramic):** Porcelain is a glass-like material formed into fillings or crowns using models of the prepared teeth. The material is tooth-colored and is used in inlays, veneers, crowns and bridges.



CFP Photo

Tips:

1. Quality comes first

The health effects of dental work lie in its quality and in the patient's hygiene.

"Teeth are a forced organ. Once a false tooth is stressed unevenly, the gum will become irritated and the root will loosen. However, the problem is that once the deformation can be recognized, the damage has been done. See a well-qualified dentist regularly," Zhou, of Peking University Third Hospital, said.

2. Frequent cleaning

Cold, heat and irritating foods do not bother a false tooth, but poor cleaning does. After being fitted with any dental work, the gap widens and food debris can more easily become stuck. Stuck debris breeds bacteria,

which cause inflammation and tooth decay. "Brush and gargle after every meal, and even after snacks," Zhou said.

3. Avoid improper use

Avoid chewing on only one side of your mouth after being fitted with dental work, or else it may destabilize the fitting.

When taking out or wearing dentures, the strength should be distributed to avoid oral soft tissue injuries. "See your dentist semi-annually even if there is nothing obviously wrong with your dentures," she said.

False teeth have a lifespan, and porcelain overlay crowns only last 10 to 15 years. Artificial teeth made of resins last three years, and metal pin teeth last up to five.

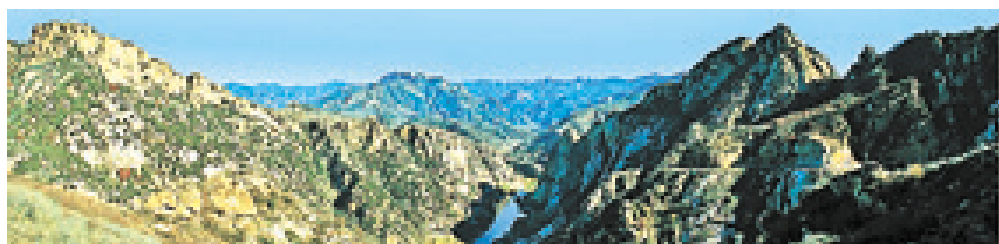
Grills and natural thrills

By Jin Zhu

The temperature in Beijing has risen to a level comfortable for spending time outdoors. But pretty soon it will be too hot to be outside air-conditioned homes and offices. While the weather is nice, why not take advantage of it and have a springtime open-air barbecue.

Unlike self-service barbecues you find in restaurants, an open-air barbecue's biggest draw is that people get to be involved in the entire process of preparing food: setting up the grill, lighting the fire, preparing the food and watching over it as it slowly cooks.

Below are some popular barbecue spots in Beijing's suburbs, where you can whip up a great meal while communing with nature.



From Yunmeng Mountain Bai River looks like a dragon with shiny, white scales.

Photo by Li Jie



Visitors who pitched a tent beside Bai River, hold a barbecue after fishing.

CFP photo



Backpackers follow a trail that winds through Bai River.

Photo provided by likefar.com

Camping in the mountains

About 85 kilometers north of Beijing is Yunmeng Mountain through which flows Bai River, named as such because in the summer, it looks like a dragon with shiny, white scales.

On one of the river's tributaries is Baihebao Reservoir, the highest of Beijing's reservoirs at an elevation of 560 meters. The water in the reservoir, seen from the steep mountain on its east, appears a very dark green that some people are terrified at the sight of it.

On the north is an excellent place for fishing, where the terrain slopes gently towards the river. "Fishing in this place is quite easy, even for beginners. Crucian carp and catfish are common in the river," Liu Hongmo, a travel and fishing aficionado from Beijing, said.

Liu has visited the Baihebao Reservoir several times since he discovered the place a year ago and said it is an ideal place to hold a barbecue. "Pitching a camp here and holding a barbecue after fishing is a good plan," he said.

Another of Liu's favorite places is Baihe Canyon, along Bai River. The canyon, which is 130 kilometers long, stretches from Baihebao Reservoir in the west to Miyun County's Miyun Reservoir in the east.

The canyon is known as the Brahmaputra Grand Canyon of Beijing, since the landscape here is more similar to the Tibet canyon with its high cliffs, rapidly flowing streams and dense vegetation. Although it is only an hour and a half by car from downtown Beijing, it is practically untraversed area.

Visitors can come here for hiking, mountain climbing and open-air barbecues. "Driving toward Heilongtan from Miyun County to Sihetang will bring you deep inside the canyon. After a two kilometer drive, there is a large clearing that is a perfect place for a barbecue," Liu said.

Getting to Baihebao Reservoir: Drive along Jingchang Highway, then take the Changpingxiguang Exit. Turn left at the corner of Changling Road toward the Yangqing National Geological Park, then turn left again to reach the reservoir.

Getting to Baihe Canyon: From Sanyuanqiao in downtown Beijing, drive along Jingmi Road up to Heilongtan. Drive north to reach the canyon.

Continued on page 21...



Baihe Canyon is a popular picnic spot among Beijingers.

Photo by Li Jie

... continued from page 20



Bai River is a good fishing spot, especially for beginners.

Photo by Li Jie

Relaxing along the riverbank

For people who want to hold a relatively fuss-free open-air barbeque, Shangzhuang Reservoir is the place to go. It is the reservoir nearest to downtown Beijing and has earned a reputation as a "fishing heaven."

"Many people who come here for the first time will be pleasantly surprised with the lake's wide surface, perhaps because Beijing does not have too many bodies of water," Liu said.

April to November is the best season to come here for fishing, kite-flying and open-air barbeques by the river.

Great barbeque spots can be found on the reservoir's north side. The terrain here slopes gently, so setting up a grill and a picnic table will not be too tricky.

Visitors can buy food supplies, kitchen utensils and charcoal at Shangzhuang, a 5-minute walk from the reservoir, Liu said.

Getting there: Drive along Badaling Highway up to Beianhe Exit. Go into Beiqing Road, then turn right at the corner of Shangzhuang Road to reach Shangzhuang Reservoir.

The Guilin of northern China

The Shi Du, or Ten Ferry, scenic spot is located in the middle reaches of Juma River in Fangshan County, about 100 kilometers from downtown Beijing. Its name comes from the fact that travelers from Juma River to Shidu Village need to cross the river by ferry 10 times to get to their destination.

Shi Du is also called the "Guilin of northern China" for its beautiful natural scenery of limestone peaks and ridges.

Thanks to good road conditions, the main scenic spots can be seen on a 30-minute drive, the best of which are Liu Du (the sixth ferry) and Qi Du (the seventh ferry). These two areas, amid streams flowing from the mountains, are also where

tourists love to set up barbeques. The clear water here is so cold that it doubles as a chiller for beverages.

Getting there: Drive along Jingshi Highway, then take Liulihe Exit to reach Shi Du scenic spot.

A1 for Beijing residents

A popular picnic spot among Beijing residents, Houhe Canyon has everything city dwellers look for in a nature getaway: mountains, forests, waterfalls and flowers.

But the canyon, 85 kilometers from downtown Beijing, is not clearly marked in most travel maps. Gucheng River, which winds through the northern fields of Yangqing County and is easily located on a map, actually branches off from the canyon.

The perfect spot for barbeques—and fishing—is at the bottom of the Houhe Canyon. To get there, travelers first need to hike up Yingmengsi Mountain. Two kilometers away is Yingmeng Temple, from where they will begin their descent to the bottom of the canyon.

Getting there: Drive along Badaling Highway, then take Yangqing Exit. Go into National Highway 110 to reach the Longju Mountain Villa.

Tips for open-air barbeques

1. Choose a spot that is shielded from strong winds, preferably one beside a body of water. Set up your grill away from trees, grassy areas and flammable objects.
2. Place one or two barrels of water beside the grill in case of fire. Vehicles should not be parked in the direction the wind is blowing.
3. Carry burn medicine at all times.
4. Wear comfortable clothing that is suitable for outdoor activities, preferably ones made of cotton.
5. After barbecuing, make should that embers are completely extinguished. Then dispose of them properly.



Visitors hold a barbeque on the riverbank.



Shi Du is called the "Guilin of northern China" because of its limestone peaks.

CFP photos



By Mike Grigg

Many in leadership roles have at least once found themselves asking this question: "Why don't my employees work harder and become more involved in helping our company reach success? Why don't they listen to me?"

To answer this question, just focus on the source of the problem. Perhaps it is not the employees: perhaps it is your leadership. I found an answer a few years ago that improved my leadership skills and the skills of those with whom I've shared it.

In 2006, when working in the silicon city of China in Jiangsu Province — Zhangjiagang — I was training and consulting with Dow Corning and began a friendship with an older trainee in the course. He was a sensible Japanese manufacturing engineer with a warm smile and gentle demeanor named Keizo. We found ourselves conversing on a range of topics along with a few Chinese employees who wanted to improve their English skills.

There was one particular conversation that Keizo and I had between a class on Effective Meetings where I spoke about the top three types of decision making in multinational companies: autocratic, majority rule

and weighted decision.

Keizo suggested an idea from his experience in Japan that I later called "unanimous decision making." He said a group of managers would meet to discuss an idea and decide an action until they reached a 100-percent agreement. Prior to hearing this, I assumed Japan was like China, where the ranking manager called the shots from the head of the table.

I had two presumptions.

I guessed this agreement was founded on coercion and not on free will; however, it was just the opposite. He told me that each person had an equal vote in the matter at hand and could agree or disagree at their own free will. In fact, it was warmly welcomed for younger managers to disagree and openly share their reasons for doing so. He said even if there was a 1-percent disagreement with the decision,

the other group members would work to convince the dissenter, while working with him to improve the plan.

My second guess was that this style would take an unprecedented amount of time and dedication. I thought it may take days and even weeks for many Americans to agree on a course of action. And who has that kind of time?

Keizo agreed that it takes time, but said it was worth it to

reach complete agreement before beginning the plan. With total agreement, the level of participation, support and the success of the decision becomes a natural process toward achieving the goal. The manager is freed from having to strictly oversee the process because employees already feel motivated.

It is as if we employees are hikers on a mountain path. The mountain represents our goal: promotions, recognition and success. Yet, the path we would naturally take to get there may be different for each individual.

I may want to take two weeks and climb the mountain at a slow pace, conserve my energy and enjoy the scenery. Someone else may want to take the fastest route, knowing that a little hard work earlier on may produce free time in the future. Concerns on the best route, or whether to take more breaks along the way are presented. The amount of resources — food and water — to bring are crucial. Members of the group may have different ideas on how the goal can be achieved and before setting a course, everyone will have his own opinion on the best way to reach the mountain.

To be continued ...

Mike Grigg is the manager of Suzhou Corporate Training
CFP Photo



Happy Easter Day

Easter Family Brunch



Cafe Swiss invites you to celebrate Easter Sunday with your family at a special brunch buffet with unlimited champagne, chilled seafood and famous Easter dishes. Children under age six eat free and between ages six and 12 can get a 50 percent discount.

Where: Cafe Swiss, Swissotel Beijing, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: April 12

Cost: 268 yuan (includes fountain drinks), 368 yuan (includes champagne and fountain drinks), subject to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 6553 2288

Easter Brunch

Celebrate Easter with a sumptuous brunch of Pan-Asian delicacies including fresh sushi and sashimi, noodle, parcels and exotic desserts. There are child-oriented Easter party activities like an Easter egg hunt, face painting and a magician. The event will include performances from a jazz band, a lucky draw and maybe a surprise visit from

the Easter Bunny himself.

Where: Elements, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 12

Cost: 288 yuan (fountain drinks and local beer), 348 yuan (open bar), subject to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 5865 5020

Stylish Easter



Celebrate this special day with your family and your friends. Relax and enjoy the freshness of spring at the finest French gourmet cuisine restaurant.

Where: Le Pre Lenotre, Sofitel Wanda Beijing, Tower C Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 11

Cost: 688 yuan

Tel: 8599 6666

Unforgettable Easter Experience

Enjoy a sophisticated culinary experience and the heady aromas of a real fire barbecue. Kids will be fascinated by the Easter egg hunt and find enjoyment in the specially designed live Easter bunny zoo. Children ages six to 12 get a 50 percent discount: those under

age six eat free.

Where: Asia Bistro, JW Marriott Beijing, 83 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 12, 11:30 am - 3 pm

Cost: 268 yuan including free soft drinks and draft beer, 388 yuan including free champagne and wine (subject to 15 percent surcharge)

Tel: 5908 6688

Buffet Lunch



Treat your family and friends to a lavish lunch featuring a seemingly endless buffet and a special children's buffet. Enjoy free soft drinks throughout lunch, and keep the kids busy with the Easter egg hunt in East Garden or with face painting and cartoons at the Kids' Corner. Every child will receive a chocolate bunny. Each paid adult may bring one child under age nine at no additional charge.

Where: Silk Road Trattoria, Great Wall Sheraton Hotel, 10 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 12, 11:30 am - 3 pm

Cost: 288 yuan

Tel: 6590 5566 ext 2117

Easter Sunday Brunch

Enjoy the Easter Buffet Brunch and celebrate the occasion with beloved friends and family.

Where: Garden Court, The St. Regis Beijing, 21 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: April 12, 11:30 am - 3 pm

Cost: 580 yuan net

Tel: 6460 6688 ext 2340

Easter Family Treasure Hunt and Brunch



Feast to your heart's content on a lavish spread of international delicacies and endless displays of mouthwatering desserts. For an extra ounce of Sunday brunch indulgence, try the free Taittinger Champagne for sharing memorable toasts with friends and family.

Children can enjoy the carefully selected children's buffet: those under age six eat free, and between ages six and 12 eat half price.

Where: Hilton Beijing Wangfujing, 8 Wangfujing Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: April 12

Cost: 208 yuan (without champagne), 328 yuan (with

Taittinger Champagne), subject to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 5812 8888 ext. 8411

Exciting Easter Celebrations



Gather the children and bring the family for a joyous Easter Sunday brunch celebration. Exciting treats include a personal appearance by the Easter Bunny, a colorful children's playground and a thrilling Easter egg hunt. Overflowing with succulent seafood and all the classic festive favorites, the brunch also features free freshly squeezed fruit juice, soft drinks and wine.

Where: Scene a Cafe, China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: April 12

Cost: 398 yuan per adult, 199 yuan per child, subject to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 6505 2266 ext 35

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Pain with a different kind of 'ouch!'



CFP Photo

By Han Manman

Yesterday was a really bad day; nothing went right from the second I woke up realizing I slept through my clock's alarm.

Even though I basically just splashed water on my face, then ran to the office, I still arrived half an hour late for a meeting. I hurried to the conference room where I was scheduled to give a presentation, and saw everybody waiting for me. I took a deep breath to begin my speech ... But wait, where was my notebook with the outline? Darn, left it at home!

I ended up giving a bad presentation, to say the least. And I can still picture the discontentment on my boss's face – a bad sign in these financially hard times when companies are looking for the smallest excuse to fire employees.

After the meeting, I received a text message with more bad news: My best friend got together with a guy I believe is no good for her.

What a terrible day! And to think I've only been awake for three hours! I signed in to MSN messenger and wrote as my status message, "a pain in the ass."

A minute later, I received a message from a Chinese friend named Robert. "What's up? Is your ass OK?"

"What? Why are you talking about my ass?" I said, feeling both angry and embarrassed to be discussing my hind quarters with a man.

"I saw your status message saying your ass is painful, and thought maybe you got injured," he said. "I just wanted to check that you're fine."

I burst out laughing. Good thing he could not hear it. "Actually, 'pain in the ass' is an American idiom that refers to 'a nuisance or a source of annoyance.' Some people also say 'pain in the butt' or 'pain in the neck,'" I said. "I wrote it because nothing seems to be going right today."

A funny misunderstanding, I thought after my exchange with Robert. I decided

to delete the status message on MSN and went on with my work.

But I kept getting interrupted by a Chinese guy who messaged me with idle talk. I said I was busy and had no time to chat, but he would not leave me alone. When I could not stand his pestering anymore, I furiously typed in English, "Please don't talk to me anymore, you're a pain in the ass!"

Blessed silence.

But 20 minutes later, he was back. "How do you know I have hemorrhoids? I haven't told anybody about that!"

"Oh my god, why are you talking about your hemorrhoids?" I said.

"But you just said I have pain in the ass!"

Because of what happened with Robert earlier, I realized this guy also misunderstood the expression.

"Just don't bother me because I'm busy," I said tersely, thinking I should probably stop using the idiom if I wanted to stay sane.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly mis-used by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Made between 1959 through the 1960s

This expression of a time frame is confusing. If you use "between" to define a period of time, it has to be "in the space or time separating two points"; for instance, "between 1950 and 1970." When you use "through," it denotes a period of time that continues to a given point in time. For instance, we say, "The movie premieres on March 5 and will run through March 15." So, for the original phrase, you will either say "made between the late 1950s and the 1960s" or "made in 1959 all the way through the 1960s."

2. They discussed the matter in-depth.

"In-depth" is an adjective that means "going deeply into a subject," "very thorough and comprehensive." Take this example: "He has spent hours reading Government cables, memoranda and classified files to brief himself for in-depth discussions." In the original sentence, the word should not have been used as an adverb. The same thought can be expressed this way: "They discussed the matter deeply" or "They discussed the matter in an in-depth way."

3. It is a group of both special and normal.

This sentence can be rewritten either as, "It is a group, both special and normal," which means the group is special and normal, or as, "It is a group of both special and normal qualities."

Native speaker: Penny Turner

4. Made between 1959 through the 1960s

This phrase is badly constructed; it combines the ideas expressed by "between" and "through," and ends up confusing the reader. When "between" is used to denote a range in time or place, it should always be paired with "and," like in the example Professor Zhu gave. If the writer wishes to be specific and keep 1959, he or she should then find out when manufacturing of the item ended in the 1960s. Then the original phrase can be rewritten for example as, "made between 1959 and 1968."

5. They discussed the matter in-depth.

Yes, "in-depth" is an adjective and was incorrectly used in the sentence, where it was made to function as an adverb. Aside from the solutions the Professor gave, the following sentences can also work: "They had an in-depth discussion of the matter" and "They discussed the matter thoroughly."

6. It is a group of both special and normal.

The line sounds like it has been left unfinished. A group of both special and normal what? "Special" and "normal" are also very broad, overused terms that I advise the writer to find adjectives that would more aptly describe the subject and thus, more effectively engage the reader. But maybe, like the Professor said, the writer just meant to say that the group is "both special and normal."

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Divided Chick

By Tiffany Tan

This sounds like an emotionally troubled bird that does not know whether to cross the road or not. Picture a chicken on the roadside, putting a leg forward then taking it back; looks to the left then to the right, then scratches its head. Add question mark in a thought balloon, then repeat action from the top.

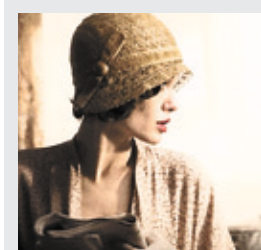
The sign also brings to mind chicken characters from the animated film *Chicken Run*, which tried to come up

with various ploys to escape their coop before they became "divided chicks" that would end up divided again as slices of chicken pie.

"Divided chick" sounds cute, but the grocery store may want to change it to "chopped chicken." The Chinese word *fen'ge* means to "cut up" or "divide," which on another Chinglish sign might have become "cut up the chicken" or "divide the chicken." So this one deserves to be commended for coming close.



Photo provided by chinglish.de



Movie of the week

The movie industry always has a downturn after the Oscars are unveiled in February, and recommendations for April are tough. Still, Angelina Jolie shines in *Changeling*.

Jolie delivers a great performance in the film. Her character goes through the surreal horror of losing her child in only a second ... But Jolie's performance captures the wild emotions perfectly. The film delivers chills from the start and rarely lets up.

It was heartbreaking, even disturbing in some scenes. And in the end, it delivers a message of hope for every parent who has lost a child: never give up your search for the one you love.

Synopsis

In 1928, Single mother Christine Collins (Angelina Jolie) returns home one day to discover her nine-year-old son Walter missing. She calls the police and, after a grueling 24-hour wait they search for her son. But the boy they bring back is not the one who left. After confronting corrupt city authorities, Collins is left to find her son on her own.

Scene 1: at Walter's school

(Christine Collins meets her son Walter after school.)

Christine Collins (C): Hey, sport.

Walter (W): Hey, Mom.

C: How was school?

W: OK.

C: Yeah?

W: We learned about dinosaurs. And I got in a fight with Billy Mankowski.

C: What happened?

W: He hit me.

C: Did you hit him back? Good. Rule number one, remember? **Never start a fight, always finish it** (1). Why'd he hit you?

W: Because I hit him.

C: You hit him first? Why?

W: He said my dad ran off because he didn't like me.

C: Honey, your father never met you, so how could he not like you?

W: Then why did he leave?

C: Well, because the day you were born, something else arrived in the mail. And it was in a box a little bit bigger than you. You know what was in it? Something called responsibility. And to some people, responsibility is the scariest thing in the world.

W: So, he ran away because he was scared of what was in that box?

C: Uh-huh.

W: That's just dumb.

C: That is exactly what I thought.

Scene 2: at Collins's house

(Captain Jones sends a doctor to the Collins's.)

Dr Earl Tarr (D): Mrs. Collins?

Collins (C): Yes?

D: Dr. Earl W. Tarr. Captain Jones sent me. I consult with him from time to time on juvenile cases. May I come in?

C: Yes, thank you for coming. I was beginning to think he didn't believe me.

D: Well, I'm here now, and we'll put all that to rights. Where's the boy? Ah! There he is. A handsome young man. He has your eyes, doesn't he? And a little bit of the nose. Very fit, in spite of all his **travails** (2). A very resilient boy you've got here, Mrs. Collins.

C: I thought you were here to help me.

D: Well, I am. Captain Jones said that the boy had been through some severe physical changes and asked me to **drop in on** (3) him to reassure you in your time of motherly concern.

C: My motherly concern is not for him because he's not my son.

D: Now, statements like that will hardly help

the boy's self-esteem, now will they? Captain Jones said something about a change in height?

C: Yes.

D: Ah, well. Hardly a mystery. We've known for some time that **trauma** (4) can affect the growth of children. Given the stress of the past five months, his spine may have actually shrunk. It's uncommon, but it's within the realm of possibility.

C: And **circumcision** (5)?

D: Very likely his abductor thought it appropriate. After all, circumcision is hygienically sound.

C: I ...

D: You see, there's a perfectly sound medical explanation for all of this. You need to be apprised of all changes the lad went through during his absence. But it's right for you to raise the questions.

C: Wouldn't I know whether or not he's my son? I'm the mother.

D: Which means you're in no position to be objective. You are **looking through the prism of extreme emotion** (6) at a boy who has changed from what you remember.

C: He isn't the same boy that left here.

D: Just as a boy that goes off to war and then returns is not the same anymore. And a mother's heart, driven by intuition and emotion, sees these changes and rebels, insists that this isn't your son. That doesn't change the facts. I'm willing to put my theory to the test of objectivity, Mrs. Collins.

C: Are you?

Scene 3: psychopathic ward of Los Angeles County General Hospital

(Collins talks to Carol Dexter, also a patient in the psychopathic ward)

Carol Dexter (D): My name's Carol Dexter. What's yours?

Collins (C): Christine. Christine Collins.

D: Now, finish it all. I know it's hard, but you gotta try.

C: Oh, boy.

D: I heard them talking. You're here on code 12? Police action. I mean, the doctors, the staff, they figure that if the police brought you here, there must be a good reason for it.

C: There isn't a good reason for it. I'm perfectly sane and I will explain that to them.

D: How? The more you try to act sane, the crazier you start to look. If you smile too much, you're delusional or you're stifling hysteria. And if you don't smile, you're depressed. If you remain neutral, you're emotionally withdrawn, potentially **catatonic** (7).

C: You've given this a lot of thought.

D: Yeah, I have. Don't you get it? You're a code 12, so am I. We're here for the exact same reasons. We both **pissed off** (8) the cops.

Vocabulary

1. Never start a fight, but always finish it: here she is instructing her son to not throw the first punch, but to fight back if attacked.

2. travail: pain, anguish or suffering resulting from mental or physical hardship.

3. drop in: to visit someone without notice

4. trauma: an experience that produces psychological injury or pain

5. circumcision: a Jewish religious sacrament whereby the foreskin of the penis is cut off

6. looking through the prism: to see things in terms of fixed criteria

7. catatonic: motor abnormalities like extreme stiffness or laxity seen often in schizophrenics

8. piss off: to anger
(By Huang Daohen)

